

## THE MURDER THAT SHOOK THE MET

 The suspects ● The police ● The future of race relations • Matthew Parris on the Lawrences, pages 2,3 13-17

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS token page 30 Rlus



# Campaign to banish racism

# Law to change to bring 'new era' for Britain

By Philip Webster, political editor, Richard Ford and Stewart Tendler

RADICAL changes in the law in an attempt to eradicate racism from public life in Britain were announced yesterday by the Government as the report on the Stephen Lawrence case was published.

Tony Blair last night promised the most far-reaching reform of race relations laws in 30 years and a concerted drive to end the "canteen culture" in Britain's police forces.

Speaking after Sir Paul Con-don, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, admitted the shame of his force over the murder investigation, the Prime Minister gave him his personal backing. He said he hoped the Lawrences would

work with the police and the Government for change. In the most scathing report on policing since the Second World War, Sir William Macpherson accused the Metropolitan Police of "racism. professional incompetence and bad leadership". He added that 18 years after the Scarman report into policing and community relations, many of its lessons have not been Clearned or properly imple-

As the Government promised a new drive to combat racism in every workplace, black groups greeted the report and the Government's response cautiously.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, also stood by Sir Paul who is to resist calls to resign and complete the remaining ten months of his seven-year term to drive forward anti-rac-

ist policies. Mr Straw foreshadowed the widening of the Race Relations Act to cover civil servants, hospital and social workers, immigration officers and the police. He hoped the report would be a "watershed" in British attitudes to racism and told a sombre House of Commons that it must act as a "catalyst for permanent and irrevocable change, not just across our public services but across the

whole of society". With Neville and Doreen Lawrence, Stephen's parents, looking on from a special gallery, he declared that the report was a testament to them and must become a lasting tesnament to their son.

The 335-page report cata-logued the inadequacies of the

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investigation which meant the killers of the A-level student tice. The investigation was flawed, from the arrival of officers on the scene of the stabbing in April 1993 at a bus-stop in southeast London, to the top of the organisation.

First aid at the scene was inadequate and officers were badly organised in the first hours. Stephen's parents were patronised and ignored by detectives. Other senior officers were badly-informed about the law and in one case "not up to his job". Identity parades which might have provided evidence were botched and searches of the suspects' houses were inadequate.

Mr Straw said that he and Sir Paul accepted the central finding that the Metroplitan Police is infected by "institutional" racism.

The other main measures outlined by the Home Secre-

☐ An immediate inspection of the Metropolitan Police by the Inspectorate of Constabulary, including an examinanon of unsolved murders.

☐ Orders to compel all police forces to set clear objectives and performance standards to deal with racist crime.

□ New targets for the recruitment, retention and promotion of ethnic minority police and civilian staff to ensure that every force reflects the diversity of the community it

serves.

A report next week by the Inspectorate of Constabulary looking at police-community relations across the country. ☐ Extension of the Race Rela-



"I failed to get into the police on account of my flat feet"

Neville and Doreen Lawrence with their family and legal team at a press conference after the publication of the report which she said had only "scratched the surface"

tions Act to cover all the public services. The Commission for Racial Equality will investigate claims of discrimination within every policy force and

He said: "We should confront as a nation honestly the rac-ism that soll exists within our society. We should find within ourselves the will to overcome it. Today all the right words have been said but later the right things must be done." Racism was a "waste of talent and ability and the contribution that could be made to Britain. It is something that diminishes the whole of our society". He said the country had to show that same courage and determination the Lawrences showed in the six-year fight to

> Condon speaks, page 2 Eltham streets, page 3 Report, pages 13-17 Tim Hames, page 24

Mr Blair said the report which delivered a scathing verdict on the police handling of the case - must mark the beginning of a "new era in race relations"

> Continued on page 2, col 5 Leading article, page 25

# Mother still bitter and angry

gang war and from that mo-

By MICHAEL HARVEY

FOR Neville and Doreen Lawrence, the six years since their son's murder have been filled with grief and pain as they have campaigned to bring his killers to justice. But yesterday they said nothing had

"Black people are still dying on the streets and in the hack of police vans," Mrs Lawrence

"My feelings about the future remain the same as it was when my son was murdered. Black youngsters will never be safe on the streets. The police on the ground are the same as they were when my son was

Bitter and angry still, she said the inquiry report had only scratched the surface. "I was looking forward to the report, thinking that it would be a watershed for centuries to come but instead it

has only scratched the surface

and has not gone to the heart

of the problem. Nonetheless. this report represents an opportunity not to be missed by this society as a whole. It is a

time for change."

Speaking at a press conference at the Home Office in London alongside her husband Mrs Lawrence continued: "If those who had murdered my son had been better educated in knowing who had helped to build the society we live in. they would have realised that everyone in this country, and black people, played a part in it. We have earned our place to live and not to have our chil-

dren killed." She told Sir Paul Condon that he did not have the support of the black community.

"When one of your children has been brutally murdered you are looking for those with power to do something about it. My son was stabbed and left to bleed to death on the night of 22 April 1993 while police officers looked on.

ment on they acted in a manner that can only be described as white masters during slavery.
"Since Sir Paul Condon took

over the role as Commissioner he has spent a lot of time defending his officers while those he was employed to protect were vulnerable and at the mercy of the racist officers who walked the streets in the name of the law. The report said that there

was nothing in the finding that suggested or implied that all police officers are racist. even though they believe that institutional racism was apparent in a number of areas the police handled of the case.

"It seems that we had all the officers who were racist handling our case.
"No wonder that we are in

the position we are today that no one is serving time for the murder of my son."

was hard to see how it would

She questioned the retention

be eradicated from the police.

of stop and search powers and

called for monitoring of the re-

cruitment of black and ethnic

She welcomed the emphasis

minority officers.

on education in the inquiry re-

port, adding: "They see the

need to amend the National

Curriculum. I truly believe in

education as gaining and im-parting knowledge.

ground is what separates us."

Our history, our back-

She said institutional racism was so ingrained that it The Charity Challenge in the Caribbean In aid of the National Beaf Children's Society We are looking for adventurous people to join us for the trip of a lifetime cycling 250 miles across the most beautiful of

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### Fresh avalanche hampers rescue By Claudia Joseph

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THE race to rescue victims 10m of the Paznaun Valley, 25 trapped in the Austrian ski resort of Galtür was hampered yesterday when another ava-Zurs and Stuben.

lanche hit a neighbouring village, destroying four houses and burying six people alive. Yesterday's avalanche, 45ft high and 600ft wide, tore lanche above Ramsau. down at speeds of 180mph through Mathon, about a mile

away from Galtur where 16 bodies have been recovered from Tuesday's avalanche. The search for another 30 people who are missing was suspended as darkness set in. Recuers fear the death toll will surpass the 56 lives lost in the worst alpine disaster of 1954 at Blons, in the neighbouring

Varariberg province.
Thousands of tourists. trapped by unpassable roads. were clamouring to leave the resort before it was cut off again by bad weather, forecast for the weekend. As the main road into Galtur remained blocked, tourists were being airlifted to Landeck, at the bot-

miles away. Tourists also remained trapped in Lech.

As the snowfall took its toll, Austrian organisers cancelled the cross-country skiing world championships after an ava-

In Switzerland rescuers recovered two more bodies of victims of Sunday's avalanche in Evolene in Valais canton. The body of a farmer was discovered in central Uri canton. In France, a 26-year-old

days in the Pyrenees, died in hospital; a 33-year-old woman discovered with him was recovering from hypothermia. Despite the appalling weather conditions. British holiday companies are still sending tourists to skiing resorts. Ing-

pendent ski tour operator, is

flying 0.000 tourists to European resorts this weekend.

# Derek Nimmo, the perfect English gentleman, dies

"They treated the affair as a

By JOANNA BALE

THE comedy actor Derek Nimmo, a veteran of Radio 4 shows such as Just a Minute. died yesterday aged 68. He had been in hospital

since falling at his home in Kensington in December and had spent several weeks in a coma following surgery to re-move a blood clot from his brain. After slowly regaining consciousness, he was reported to be making good progress but died shortly after contracting pneumonia.

Barry Burnett, Mr Nimmale hiker, missing for four mo's agent of 12 years, said that the star's wife Pat. and children Tim, Amanda and Piers were at his bedside at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital for his final hours. "Unfortunately Derek developed pneumonia over the last 24 hours and he died at about ham's, Britain's biggest inde-5pm," said Mr Burnett.

Paying tribute to the man he described as "the perfect client" Mr Burnett said: " I think he epitomised the English gentlemen. He was a very versafile actor who everybody company, which had made loved. He will be greatly successful tours of the Far

Mr Nimmo made his name in the 1960s television adaptation of P G Wodehouse's Bertie Wooster and Blandings Castle novels, but he is best known for his television roles as comic clergymen in the sitcoms All Gas and Gaiters. Oh Brother, Oh Father and Hell's

More recently he had been concentrating on his theatre



Derek Nimmo: favourite actor as a loff or clergyman successful tours of the Far Mr Nimmo was an unlikely star, with a stutter and an up-

per class air. Yet it was these very factors which made him one of the great comic charac-With his slightly bumbling. well-to-do mannerisms he was well-suited to The World

of Wooster and Blandings Castle. However, while roles like these propelled him to stardom, it soon became clear that he was funniest not as a toff. but as a member of the clergy. Ecelesiastical hits saw him play a range of clerics. In his

time he was a curate, a monk, a Catholic priest, and a Dean. Originally from Liverpool, Nimmo went into acting purely by chance. Sminen with the attractive girl who tried to sell him tickets for the amateur theatre production in which she was starring, he decided to sign up. Patricia became his wife of 43 years.

Obituary, page 27

All riders must be over 18, pay an initial deposit of C350 and pledge to ruse the minimum amount of sponsorship for the

# The familiar surroundings that give a parable meaning

P arables must be simple. When a parable is being born it is churlish to confuse the picture. So though, on a grey morning in a biting February wind, one bus stop on the A205 South Circular Road looks very like another, the knowledge that this is where Stephen was waiting six years ago, projects the Dickson Road bus shelter into an early frame of the modern Bayeux tapestry that relates our parable.

Soon it may be visited as a site of special historical interest. But in it-self the place was without resoSTEPHEN'S MEMORY By MATTHEW PARRIS

nance. Eltham offers no grisly showcase for urban squalour: just suhurban semis, pehble-dashed or mock-Tudor, neat lawns, box, hawthorn and variegated ivy. As in all the best parables, it is in the famil-iar that meaning is found.

One moral alone must be derived. Distractions are brushed aside. So we brush aside the stories follow our tapestry to the next

This is a small plaque, a simple In Memoriam in the road: the place in our parable where Stephen the Blameless fell. The wind had blown towards the GR postbox an imitation mauve rose to which a note was pinned. "In the name of humanity I am so sory! |sic| Your mum and dad has |sic| touched us all ... your spirit is changing our society forever".

For all, its naivety the note said more than, in an hour of pieties.

will have made them cruel - and the House of Commons said later. The Prime Minister adopted the voice he uses for tragic events. Jack Straw. probably the only man in the Cabinet capable of delivering yesterday's statement without sententiousness, kept the temperature down. He was introduced by Madam Speaker, who momentarily mistook his name, as 'Mr Secre-

tary Short \_ Straw. In a gallery more like a theatrebox Neville and Doreen Lawrence watched. Neville Lawrence's hair. hlack six years ago, is greying now, be looked the more bowed, his wife the more defiant. "Institutional rae- Home Office had a notice in their ism consists of the collective failure of an organisation..." began Straw.

Behind him was a battalion of white faces called the Parliamentary Labour Party. But that is not part of the parable, in which politicians are doing their

The next frame is unfinished, the jury being still out on Sir Paul. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner confronted journalists at a Home Office Press Conference. With characteristic sensitivity the

foyer advertising a security alert: "Black special". Sir Paul stood his ground, it being hard to indict him for racism. This parable is about racism. All sides — from black mili-tants to Home Office Sir Humphreys - would prefer to overlook

the sheer bloody incompetence. Doreen and Neville Lawrence filled the final frame yesterday. Doreen made the opening statement. lashing out against the police and hardly acknowledging efforts to re-form. Some of her claims were personally offensive and quite unprov-

en; but Mrs Lawrence is a wonderful person - nobody can doubt it - and if she is sometimes unfair, our parable must overlook that.

othing change hese str

No observer moving as I did yesterday from Eltham to Westman ster to Whitehall could fail to no tice the mix of fact and fable. Feelings genuine and feigned, promises both earnest and hollow memories as selective as every parable requires, were tangled together.

Imperceptibly history morphs into symbolism: GM history. Shades of grey fade, only black and white persists.

**Police** 

were

# of his attackers, the cruelties which Condon tells of shame over failures

SIR Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, yesterday publicly acknowledged the deep shame his force feels over the Stephen Lawrence investigation and announced he will stay until next year to lead reforms.

Sir Paul said: "We feel a sense of shame for the incomperence of the investigation and in our dealings with the family. We failed and we could and should have done better."

He was backed by the leadership of the Black Police Association, the leaders of the Police Federation represending junior ranks, and John Newing, Chief Constable of Derhy-shire and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Speaking minutes after Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. had given him his support in a Commons statement. Sir Paul said that the report by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny on the Stephen Lawrence investi-gations had shown that his officers had been cleared of racism, overt discrimination or corruption in their investiga-

non of the murder. He said that the allegations of corruption had proved to be "malicious, pernicious". He accepted that his force had been found guilty. "quite properly", of incompetence but he had decided against resignation because Sir William had not accused him of dishonesty or malpractice. He still hoped that before he leaves in January new police work will bring the racists who killed Stephen

Lawrence to justice. Sir Paul left open the possibility that some suspects could face a perjury charge over evidence at the inquiry, although Sir William ruled that out. The Commissioner said that there were investigations under way wnich he would not detail. Addressing a press conference in front of a poster proclaiming ine Yard's new "Protest and Police chief says he still hopes to arrest killers

Respect" campaign slogan, he said that he accepted the new definition of institutional rac-

been concerned that the definitions being put forward were too broad brush and would tar his entire force. He had expressed his fears to Sir William after he gave evidence and asked for a workable definioon that did not label all his officers. Sir Paul said the new definition, which applies to all

We failed in our dealings with the family and we could and should have done better?

public bodies and the wider community, was demanding but that the judge had addressed his concerns, it included unwitting prejudice, ig-norance, thoughtlessness and

Sir Paul said that it was a "demanding interpretation" but the police would lead the way in how the standard could be applied in practical approaches. He planned a threefold programme to deal with key issues raised by Sir William. The force has already in-

reports

ism in Sir William's report. During the inquiry he had

troduced integrity testing to check whether officers display racism in dealing with the public. Undercover black and Stewart Tendler

Asian officers have been used to test white officers under suspicion and telephone testing of victims has started to discover how they have been treated. Twelve tests have been carried oot on officers, all of whom were found to behave properly. A survey of 100 victims had found two with complaints about the attitude of officers. Sir Paul is sending an extra

180 detectives into London's murder squads. He pledged a "Rolls-Royce" approach to murder cases so that the Lawrence inquiry disasters would not be repeated. Police would no longer rely on ad hoc squads thrown together in the heat of the moment. No murder team would struggle with computers as the Lawrence team had, and in the 1990s new technology was at hand. Sir Paul also plans to create

a "rapid response force" from mobile units to seal off and preserve murder scenes in the key "golden hour" when police

His third plan is a massive research study to see what Londoners think of the police. It will be similar to a controversial study more than ten years ago by the Policy Studies Institute, which first revealed the

extent of the canteen culture. Inspector Paul Wilson, head of the Black Police Assocation. said that the report gave a new clarity to the definition of instirurlonai racism.

Inspector Glen Smyth, chairman of the London hranch of the Police Federation, praised the fortitude of the Lawrence family and said that police could work with the definition of racism. The Lawrence investigation was not dogged by racism, but a catalogue of errors and mistakes. It was a bungled investigation.



Sir Paul Condon, the embattled Metropolitan Police Commissioner, faces the media at Scotland Yard yesterday

# Call for ban on racist language in the home sparks protests

BY FRANCES GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to introduce the ardy" rule by which people toughest race laws in the world by outlawing racist language even in the home were proposed in the Lawrence

report yesterday. It calls for a change to the law so that offences involving racist language or behavious could be prosessed even in the privacy of a home or privale club. The change is one of a package of far-reaching proposed reforms. Other recommendacions include a review of the specific "double isopcannot be prosecuted twice for

Yesterday Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said he would ask the Law Commission to review the rule to see if the Court of Appeal should have the power to permit prosecution after an acquittal where fresh, viable evidence is presented. His response to a wide range of other possible changes will be given later. These include graning legal aid for bereaved families at inquests and reviewing bail conditions to prevent the intimida-

oon of witnesses. The proposal on racist language in the home stems from the police surveillance video that showed four of the youths Damie Acoust was in custodyt acting our stabbing and using abusive racial language. It would also extend to offences involving the possession of

offensive weapons. If the law were to be changed, it would allow the video to be used as evidence to prosecute the youths, even though they were in their own home. But the idea - along with that on diluting the "dou-ble jeopardy rule" — ran into immediate opposition from civil liberties lawyers and experts

yesterday. Chris Boothman, Jegal direc-

RACE LAWS tor for the Commission for Racial Equality, said that the pro-

posal would need full discussion. "Some aspects appeal such as being able to deal with the Bernard Manning type of situation in a private club. "But our concern is that this goes too far if it extends tu someone sitting at home just talking to another member of their family.

Geoffrey Bindman, solicitor and legal adviser to the Commission, said he would be "unhappy" about a law that could even be a breach of the Human Rights Act protections for freedom of expression. In his knowledge, it would be far tougher than anything elsewhere. In the United States. freedom of speech was fiercely protected by the First Amend-

ment, he said. "What this would mean is removing exclusion currently in the Public Order Act 1986. which prevents prosecutions for incitement to racial hatred over what takes place in a private home, if it cannot be heard outside." The act creates an offence of using threatening, abusive and insulong words or behaviour with the intention of stirring up racial hatred, he said.

It is a defence at present to show the words were used inside a dwelling and that the

lieve they could be heard. "It would not be right to penalise someone for what they say privately in their own home,"

were being bugged or over-heard, that is another matter because it then becomes a public place." John Wadham, director of Liberty, the human rights group, also strongly condemned the idea. He said: The whole point of the cur-

> ist language is that it is aimed at prevening incitement to racial harred. So it is the effect of the language that is impor-The fact that people use it: in their home may be offensive but it should not be a criminal

rent law against the use of rac-

said Mr Bindman. "However,

if they knew or believed they

offence because it affects noone else." Kamlesh Bahl, deputy vicepresident of the Law Society.

said: "It is a question of finding the right balance between tackling racist behaviour and freedom of expression." Changes to dilute the fundamental principle that a person

cannot be tried twice for the same crime would also be re-MPs and lawyers yesterday

warned that that changes could lead to people facing the endless threat of being pursued by the prosecution au-Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, urged

caution, saying it was "by no means clear" that a change of that kind would have helped in the Stephen Lawrence case. He said there were too many examples of the Government's legislating in anger and living to regret it". Lincoln Crawford, QC.

chairman of the Bar Council race relations committee, said: We must not allow ourselves to fall into a situation where the state can endlessly prosecute unpopular defendants until h gets the result it is after."

jeered at and abused By ADAM FRESCO ONE of the three senior offic- ----

ers who led the initial investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence said yesterday that he and his colleagues " ." were treated "worse than crim-". inals" during the inquiry.

Detective Chief Superintendent Bill Ilsley, Detective
Supt Ian Crampton and Det
Supt Brian Weedon, all of whom have retired, are highly ."" critical of the public inquiry.

All three deny the inquiry.

suggestions that their failure " " to hring the five suspects to . . justice was marred by racism. corruption or sheer incompe-"tence. However, they do admit mistakes were made.

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Mr lisley, who was it charge of the first investiga tion, and Mr Crampton de- '-' scribed the inquiry as a "pub- " lic witchhunt" that could happen to any officer.

Mr lisley, who was 32-years ..... with the Metropolitan Police. "." said: "From the time we'walked in we were abused, in jeered at, laughed at - and l felt the chairman allowed fit .. to) happen. It would not have "... happened in any court trial.

"I was trying to be fair and helpful because I honestly belic inquiry was going to be a meaningful inquiry. But it did not happen that way. It was almost like a public execution."

All three officers, who spoke to the Police Review magazine, say they knew the Lawrences were grieving but believe that the inquiry was set up in part to satisfy the couple to ensure they got what

#### THE INQUIRY

they wanted at the bearing.... Mr Crampton, the senior investigating officer for the first, 72 hours after the killing, add ed: "We went along to what" we were told was going to be an inquisitorial hearing. But it was totally adversarial and we were placed in the dock. and in my view. Mr Mansfield ran the show. It was almost as if we were there for them just to criticise."

All three deny they were responsible for a catalogue of erors which contributed to the suspects not being coovicted. Mr lisley said that he nut more resources into the inves-

tigation than any other "because of its delicate nature, its publicity and because it was a racist murder". All three have been criticised for failing to get on with the Lawrence family. But they

claim that from day one they were not dealing with a nor-mal family liaison situation. Mr Ilsley said that any contact with the family was in the presence of their solicitor, mran Khan. He said the first"

thing the Mr Khan said was that if it had been a white murder and black youths were thesuspects they would have aiready been arrested.
"I felt very upset about thatfor the simple reason that not only was,it untrue hut that the

family were listening to this... Ohviously it must have affected their attitude towards me," Mr lisley told the magazine, published tomorrow.

Mr Crampton was criticised for not arresting the five" suspects over the first weekend but he says they did not have strong enough evidence.

# STATE OF THE PARTY THIS JAPANESE CHORA DANSU CLOTHING CHEST FROM THE EDO PERIOD IS EXCUISITE IN ANY LANGUAGE. IT'S ONE DE A COLLECTION OF 1714 CENTURY JAPANESE CABINETS THAT

LIBERTY. THE ART OF THE IDIOSYNCRATIC.

CAN NOW BE FOUND AT LIBERTY. EVERY CABINET'S UNIQUE, SO HURRY ALONG TODAY AS

THEY WON'T LAST FOR MANY RISING SUNS. LIBERTY, REGENT ST. DPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY.

#### Tougher courts call THE Director of Public Pros-

ecutions last night urged courts to reflect a crime's racial element with tougher sen-

tences (Frances Gibb writes). David Calvert-Smith. QC. also pledged a new policy of communication with crime victims and their families if prosecutions were dropped. He told The Times that courts had failed to increase

Contioned from page 1

discover why Stephen's mur-

derers were never brought to

justice. He spoke after talking

to them at 10 Downing Street.

Although Britain was ad-

mired for its race relations

record, clearly not enough had

been done and a programme

of chance would be needed to

make Britain "a beacon to the

Mr Straw also announced

that he was asking the Law

Commission to look at the con-

world" on race equality.

ement. "In only 22 per cent of cases where we had highlighted a racial element did courts indicate that the sentence had been increased." Last antumn they had been placed under a statutory duty to up sentences for such crimes.

Mr Calvert-Smith accepted

crime twice.

that more could have been done to contact the Lawrence family after the decision not Campaign to banish racism

Mr Straw said the report

had revealed "some fundamen-

our society" including some

we believed that the issues

thrown up by this inquiry af-

Mr Straw praised Str Paul's

fect only the police."

saying that he had given strong leadership, hrought crime figures down and tackend the "double jeopardy" rule which prevents a suspect being prosecuted for the same led corruption with vigour.

He said: "I have asked Sir Paul to continue to lead the Metropolitan Police to deliver tal truths about the nature of the programme of work which that were uncomfortable. "We would be deluding ourselves if work since he took over as

is now required. He has agreed. He will use the remainign ten months of his office to take that work forward, including the agenda set by this report. I will be supporting him and his successor." The Home Secretary said

any long-established whitedominated organisation was li-" able to have procedures and practices that tended to exclude or disadvantage nonwhite people. The police service in this respect is little different from other parts of the criminal justice system, or from government departmems including, the Home Office and many other institutions." Mr Straw said. Mr Blair said the report was

a "very important moment in the life of our country".

# Nothing will change on these streets'

SCHOOL was almost over for the day on April 22, 1993 when Stephen Lawrence stopped one of his teachers, Bob Hend-erson, and asked advice about how best to present some artwork he was particularly

The two chatted for a while, and the last thing Mr Henderson remembers was Stephen. courteous and enthusiastic as ever. promising to talk to him again about his work as he rusk off to meet friends.
Eight hours later, and three

miles away. Stephen Lawrence lay bleeding to death on

His teachers, friends and all those who live, work and shop along that route where Stephen spent his last hours did not need six years of police investigations and a public inquiry to tell them why he died.

Mr Henderson said: "The acceptable face of British youth had the tragic misfortune to run into the worst."

At the Blackheath Bluecoat School there are reminders of Stephen everywhere. Just inside the main gates a cherry blossom tree was beginning to flower over the simple memorial plaque. In the entrance hall hangs a brightly coloured painting of Bluecoats by one of his school friends that is domina and by Stephen's smile, Buckley, the head teach-

er, said: Youngsters don't have to be told there is racism outside those school gates. They meet it every day and we have the police here to talk about issues that worry them

like stop and search." At lunchtime some sixth formers walked across the bridge running over the motorway to the Blackwell Tunnel to visit a nearby chip shop, just as Stephen had done that April afternoon.

Two black youths, who were about the same age as Stephen, were playing video day, just as he had with his best friend, Duwayne Brooks.

**TEACHERS** 

Neither wanted to be named because they say the police know them. There will be a lot of big talk now from politicians about stopping racism in the police but nothing will change on the streets around here. If you're black, you can't

Racist graffiti is daubed on a shopfront close to where Stephen and his friend caught a bus after school for the 15minute journey to Lewisham

High Street. Shoppers in Lewisham barely glanced at the newspaper placards yesterday. The find-ings of a former High Court judge can tell them nothing about living in this corner of southeast London that they do not already know. The popu-

Stephen is one of dozens. You heard about him because he died, but what about the others?

lar view is that this inquiry can only reinforce existing prejudice, not change it,

Marie Lincoln was born in the Caribbean but has lived in the area for 18 years. She said: "Stephen is just one of dozens of boys in this town attacked because of the colour of his skin. You heard about him because he died, but what about the others. Some report won't

change our life here."
William Maloney has sold newspapers on the same corner for 13 years and dismisses the idea that attitudes have changed since Stephen's murder. "The police have been messing around so long on this Lawrence affair they have been afraid to take on the crim-

The semi-detached terraces with their pebble-dash or mock Tudor fronts are well maintained but Mrs Emburey said: "People do feel ashamed.
You can't walk along this road

It was clear where Stephen died, a hundred yards away on the opposite pavement, as camera crews loitered around the memorial plaque. Fresh bunches of flowers had been appearing since early morning along with a misspelt

inals from both sides who have turned this place into a muggers' paradise," he said.

Many of those browsing in the cut-price clothes shop windows, where Stephen spent his last afternoon, tell of rumours of how he must have been on the fringes of crime or pro-voked the fight that killed him. They recognise this is an un-fashionable view so prefer not to give their names.

All the same they pass on the local intelligence" that one of the black teenagers was somehow involved in drugs and had wandered on to the wrong patch. There is gossip about house break-ins and provocative taunts. It doesn't matter that there is no evidence for any of these allegations. They admit it makes them feel better to believe the motive was other than just the colour of Stephen's skin.

From Lewisham Stephen took another bus to Plumstead to see an uncle and after playing computer games with Duwayne both rushed off to be home in time for the curfew im-

posed by their parents.
In Dunkery Road where they caught the 126 bus to Eltham High Street those waiting in the biting cold at the bus stop thought their area had been unfairly portrayed because of Stephen's death.

Martin Lawrence, 21, said: "This is not as violent as many other parts of south London but our reputation is that we are all racist murderers ... just because white people say something about a black it

does not make them racist." The art deco Coronet cinema on the roundabout where Stephen and Duwayne debated which route they should take home has seen better

The area likes to call itself the Millennium Borough because of the nearby Dome but residents such as Hannah Emburey believe it is forever blighted because of the Lawrence murder.

without thinking of that poor

At the bus stop where he about whether the gang meant to kill Stephen or Just frighten

poem from three children.

Merle Stayne, who used to teach in the area, tried in vain to light candles at the windswept spot. "They could have saved all that money and heartache on this report and just asked the people who have to live with racism every

THEY expected much of Jack

Straw's speech but watched in

Sir Paul Condon?

To me it's a bit of a joke."

Tabernacle Trust. "It's like say-

praising the Lawrence family

said. "It'li take a lot more than

a few nice words and commen-

dations to the family to put

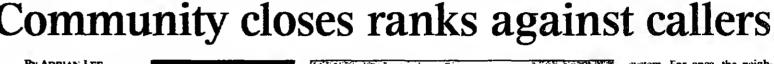
this right. It has been endemic

family, but what were they do-

ing the whole time since

"He said, 'we commend the

for a long time.



THE SUSPECTS

widower on the other side was only slightly more forthcoming, but equally reluctant to give his name.

"I've been in the Army, but sometimes you just keep your mouth shut, don't you? I've got my view but it's not worth it, is it? He had had no trouble with the brothers and his only worry was reprisals from black Muslims".

At Gary Dobson's house, on the Progress Estate, which is within walking distance of the bus stop where Stephen Law-rence was stabbed, every curtain was drawn. Many of the neighbours are elderly and yesterday left no doubt about where their sympathies lay.

"I have no wish to discuss it," said one woman. "As far as I am concerned, they (the Dobsons) are very nice



Dustbin liners cover the gates of David Norris's home

people." She blamed the media for all the fuss. In Eltham High Street. where the five are said to frequent local pubs, one of the Acourt brothers was seen yesterday morning buying a newspaper. Witnesses said he appeared to be laughing at the headline "Into Hell"

Neil Acourt, left, and his brother Jamie yesterday. A sign outside their house warns callers that, because of a dog, they enter at their own risk

which the tabloids had used to describe the Brook Estate where he and his brother

At Luke Knight's home in New Eltham, his mother Pam emerged briefly to say she had nothing to say. The modem property is the only one in the street to have an intercon system. For once, the neighbours Sidney and Gill Payne were only 100 willing to talk. Mrs Payne, a care assistant, said: "Luke is a very quiet, polite boy. He's not at all like it was portrayed in the papers. He is not flash, he does not wear lary |loud| clothes. They are a very close family. We are lucky to have such quiet neigh-

bours. We don't discuss what

happened with them. It is

nothing to do with us," Her husband, 63, who has lived in Eltham for 20 years, said: "He is no trouble at all. I don't really believe all this racist stuff. I think it was just boys, a gang fight." He was disappointed that Eltham had been portrayed as a racist community, populated almost entirely by white people. "There are a few coloureds around here." he said, pointing across the road, "I think there used to be one over there."



Bunches of flowers are ranged in tribute at the spot where Stephen Lawrence was stabbed and died

#### Force condemned Officers on beat as 'sinking ship' reject racist tag By HELEN RUMBELOW

By Russell Jenkins

BEAT officers going on duty in Manchester last night were resigned and dismissive of the Macpherson report. fearing that they would be stuck with the label of

They alsosaid that it may

have the effect of widening the gap between officers doing a tough job on the streets, the politicians and their own force leadership. One officer on duty said: "It is a hard battle as it is. and what has happened in Westminster isn't going to make it any easier. If you stop a car driven by a black person, you are immediately accused of being a racist. It is the first line of attack. This

de la constant de la An officer from a neighbouring force said: "Ordinary cops are not racist, just ordinary people doing a pretty shirty job as best they can. I don't think Sir Paul Condon was making much sense because he is so far from real police

is going to give them more

Officers in Greater Matichester Police have complained that the admission in October by their Chief Constable. David Wilmot, that the force is institution**POLICE VIEW** 

ally racist has made policing black communities more difficult. Some are hopeful that the report's more elaborate definition, setting it in a wider context which talks about unwitting behaviour, will absolve them of the charge they are individually racist.

Mike Huby, Police Federatioo chairman, said: "l think we can live with this definition ... It does not mean every police officer is a racist. I am hoping we try to move forward and foster better relations with the

black community."

Cheshire Constabulary
has been criticised for recruiting fewer officers from the ethnic minorities than its counterparts. Alan Gill. a retired custody sergeant, left recently after 28 years' service and is studying for a law degree at Keele University. He is fearful that the

report's subtle definition of institutional racism will lose any meaning as it filters down to the daily routine of policing adding "I think a lot of policemen will be very hurt. Ordinary coppers don't feel themselves to be racist, but this report is saying they are. And I don't think that is fair."

luded, might as well have been part of the gang that killed

angry silence — a resentment born of years of being disap-pointed at the hands of Government and police. About 20 black people from London's Notting Hill - one of the first ports of call for West Indian immigrants in the 1950s — gathered at a lot-tery-funded community arts centre to watch the Home Secretary's performance on a vast television screen. It was important they said, to witness even such a small victory for race relations even though the sub-stance left them in no mood for

How, they asked, did Mr Straw have the gall not to sack said Lisa Barnes, trustee of the ing that the captain of the Titanic had nothing to do with the sinking ship — and this is one hell of a sinking ship." malicious prosecution.

"Why does it take a murder Mr Straw's praise of the force in the same speech as was a bitter irony. Ms Barnes nothing. After the speech was over

"I don't know nothing about them," said the young woman next door. The elderly

#### BLACK REACTION

By Adrian Lee

THE black dustbin liners

the mock Tudor house were a

sign that years of evasion and silence would not be broken

by the publication of the

Like his four friends, who

were the main suspects for the

racist murder, David Norris

had gone to ground yester-

day. Security lights, a burglar

alarm and an intercom sys-

tem ensured that the 21-year-

old and his mother, Theresa,

According to their neigh-

bours, who were prepared to say little else, the crude screen

to block prying eyes and cam-

era lenses was a recent touch

at the five-bedroom house in a

private road in Chislehiust

The others, whose homes

are less imposing, found dif-ferent ways of avoiding awk-

ward questions. None wanted

to present a public face after the report dammed them as

the type of men who were ca-

pable of committing such a At the council house in

Greenwich, where Neil Acourt. 22, and his brother

Jamie. 21, live with their moth-

er Pat, a light shone above the

front door but knocks went unanswered. Two pot plants had been strategically placed to block the path and a sign

warned callers that because of

a dog, they entered at their own risk. A punchbag hung

Cluny - fancied themselves

as gang leaders, and referred

to themselves as "the Krays".

The Acourts — in the words of Sir William Macpherson of

in the garden.

southeast London.

remained undisturbed.

Stepben Lawrence inquiry.

taped over the iron gates ol

police might as well have col-

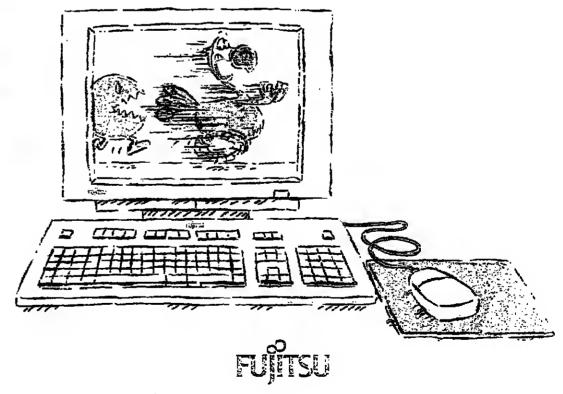
Basil Jarvis, 52, a senior neighbourhood worker, said that Sir Paul was not suitable for the post after his involvement in the Frank Critchlow affair. In 1988 Sir Paul was Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police with responsibility for the Notting Hill area when Mr Critchlow, 68, was arrested and accused of supplying

He was cleared of supplying drugs by a jury a year later. Widespread anger in the Notting Hill area about his treatment at the hands of the police was vindicated when he accepted £50,000 from the force in 1992 after he took a High Court action for alleged false imprisonment, battery and

and incompetence for them to change things," said Mr Jarvis. "It was blatantly in front of them and they did

the crowd dispersed to swap tales of racist abuse from the police. "If those on top had been dealing with it. It wouldn't have filtered down to the bullies on the street," said Stephen died? So little that the Clive Phillip. 57.

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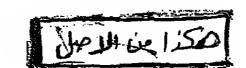


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# Cook under fire over arms to Africa leak

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK'S woes over the arms-to-Africa affair deepened last night as he faced the prospect of a parliamentary inquiry into his role in the leaking of a Commons report highly critical of the Foreign Office.

Betty Boothroyd, the Speak-er, is also to rule on whether ministers who receive leaked documents and fail to return them are in breach of parliamentary rules.

Mr Cook was forced to explain himself to the Commons vesterday after the surprise resignation from the Foreign Affairs Select Comminee of Ernie Ross, the Labour MP for Dundee West. Mr Ross admitted leaking a draft copy of the committee's highly critical re-port to the Foreign Secretary. and passing its key recommendations to Andrew Hood, Mr Cook's special adviser.

Mr Cook said he was "confident" that he had not broken House of Commons rules. However, the Tories made clear that they intend to pursue the issue and draw out further the Sierra Leone episode that has dogged the Mr Cook for much of his tenure in the

Foreign Office. During the Commons exchanges after Mr Cook's state-

ment, Conservative MPs repeatedly accused the Foreign Secretary of acting improper-ly. Sir John Stanley, MP for Tonbridge and Malling and a Tory member of the committee, said: "A minister who accepts and reads a document leaked personally to him by a member of a select committee makes himself complicit in the

A report on the leak will now be prepared by the select committee, which will auto-matically go to the Standards and Privileges Select Commit-tee, the MPs' disciplinary watchdog. That committee will then conduct its own inquiry, and MPs on the crossparty body would almost certainly want to hear from Mr Cook himself.

Further details of the leak emerged yesterday, with Mr Cook revealing that it had been faxed to the Foreign Office. Although officials refused to disclose in which office it had arrived, it was assumed it had gone to his private office.

Mr Cook, clearly irritated by the Tory questioning, said he discussed it with his Permanent Secretary, Sir John Kerr, but did not disclose it to No 10. However, he did discuss its

Dixons

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contents with Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister, and other officials, including his advisers. The Tories also kept up their fire on Mr Lloyd himself, who last week suggested in a Commons written reply that no one in the Foreign Office had seen the report before its publication date.

Mr Cook insisted that his reply, to a question which included a reference to the serial number of the final report.

was technically correct. However, Sir George Young, the Shadow leader of the House, said Mr Lloyd had given the House the wrong impression. If the House had been "knowingly misin-formed", Mr Lloyd should "immediately resign".

Mr Cook faced further Tory charges that he misled the House when he said Mr Ross had not tabled any amendments to the draft report. The amendment, which was not ac-cepted, removed words in one of the committee's conclusions which arguably sharpen the criocism of officials.

A Tory spokesman said: "Robin Cook has either again misled the public and MPs or he has given a further example of his incompetence."



William Hague at the wheel yesterday: the lorry drivers want a diesel tax rebate

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### Hague rides with the truckers

BY SUSIE STEINER

WILLIAM HAGUE took to the wheel of a lorry yesterday to support a campaign against fuel taxes which hauliers claim are crippling their in-dustry. Hundreds gathered at Westminster in a protest or-ganised by the Road Haulage Association against an anticipated 6 per cent above infla-tion rise in fuel duty in the Budget

Campaigners say this will add £18,000 to the average haulier's annual fuel bill, making it impossible for them to compete with continental rivals. The price of a tank of diesel is about £255 in Britain. against £156 in France and £129 in Luxembourg. European bauliers can tout for business anywhere in the single market. High running costs will cost the haulage industry 53,000 jobs by the 2002, according to the RHA. Mr Hague, who sat in the

cab of a vast yellow Meachers' lorry and ignored the calen-dar of naked ladies behind his head, said the Conservatives would not have let the fuel escalator get to this point. He added: "This is an industry with a problem. There are good environmental reasons for taxing fuel, but not to the point where people go and buy it abroad. They are not using less fuel. It simply means less revenue for this country." The RHA wants an "essential user rebate" for using diesel for commercial purposes.

Omagh:

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

publican charged

A publican has been darged in connection with the Origan bomb that killed 29 people on August 15 last year. Colm Murphy, 48, of Ravensdale, in the Republic, was charged in Dublin with conspiring to cause an explosion between August 13 and 16, 1998 and with member-ship of the IRA on August 14. Mr Murphy, one of seven men arrested in the Irish Re-public over the weekend, is the

first person to be charged in connection with the bombing. Mr Murphy, who is originally from south Armagh in Ulster, said little during the five-minute hearing at the Dublin Special Criminal Court, only answering "yes" to his name. He owns a building company and is the owner of a pub in Dundalk.

#### Death threats

Republican paramilitaries carved a death threat on to a woman's limbs after breaking into her home in Bessbrook. South Armagh, early yester-day and finding a man they were looking for was not there. The four children of Tanya Fleming, 31, hid upstairs dur-

#### GM food curb

The Local Government Association's public protection committee urged local councils in England and Wales to ban the use of genetically modified food in schools, care homes and meals-on-wheels services for five years "to protect the public from the potential risks of GM organisms".

#### Teacher dies 🦥

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THE PERSON

A27

A teacher has been found strangled in his ransacked motel room in California. The body of John Simpson, a bachelor in his mid-fifties who was head of music at a Birmingham school, was discovered last Friday by police in San Diego, where he was on holiday. A man is being questioned.

#### Asian donors

Asian people are being urged to become organ donors to avoid the risk of rejection of organs from inter-racial transplants. For cultural reasons few Asians are prepared to allow their organs to be used yet they have a much higher level of the diseases which can be cured by transplant.

#### Divorce victory

A woman awarded a £500,000 divorce settlement, has won the right to ask her multismil-lionaire former husband for more. Julia Oriska Lambe Clark, 49. argued that she should also have been allowed to keep the £600,000 home because she suffers from agoraphobia.

# Bank will not shadow euro

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN will not him that it should be his objectell the Bank of England to peg the value of the pound to that of the euro in preparation for Britain joining the single currency, the Treasury disclosed

claimed massive public opposition to the Prime Minister's "change of gear" over the euro. Treasury officials moved to clarify the role of the Bank. The Chancellor is to use the Budget on March 9 to reaffirm that the Bank's monetary policy committee, which sets interest rates, will cononue to be responsible for delivering an in-

flation larget of 25 per cent. Eddie George, the Bank governor, had warned on Tuesday that there could be a policy clash if he was asked to achieve convergence with "euroland" as well as keeping the inflation target. He told a Commons committee that the Government had not informed

, tive to keep the pound in line with the euro which has fallen against the pound.

A senior Treasury adviser said yesterday: The Bank can-not be asked to try to achieve two different targets at the same time. That is why we have not asked it and why we do not intend to do so. The

Bank's target is to deliver 2.5 per cent inflation." In the Commons yesterday Tony Blair insisted that the pound would not have to shadow the euro in the run-up to joining the single currency.

Senior economists believe that, in practice, the pound and the euro will naturally converge if the economic conditions are to be met for British entry. Mr Blair and Mr Brown are anxious to avoid the language of "shadowing" after the difficulties faced by Nigel Lawson shadowing the mark in 1987-88.

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# Alps wreak revenge for decades of greed

SKIERS stood shoulder-to-shoulder on the train to Landeck yesterday, excited by the prospect of fresh snow and barely aware that the Tyrol was suffering its worst avalanches for almost 50 years.

Crowding on to the train out of Landeck were the first evacuees from the disaster zones: Dutch and Germans with tired, creased faces, their skis abandoned in the buried Paznaun Valley.

Observing the irrational pull of the slopes — one rescue worker called it "snow blindness" — it was difficult to resist the impression that the Galtür disaster, like so many other seemingly natural catastrophes, was man-made. Two weeks earlier, when the avalanches first started to roll through the Alps in western

Man is the author of his own undoing in

the mountains, writes Roger Boyes

Austria, Switzerland and France, no warning bells were sounded.

Even when ten people were killed in Chamonix, when at least eight were buried in the canton of Valais, even then it was tourism as usual in Austria. On Tuesday Hansjörg Kroll — tourism chief of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce — was able to say: "We must thank the Lord God for sending us this snow."

Bookings were up by 3 per cent, ever more skiers were being squeezed on to pistes that now resemble snowy autobahns. The Alps, it seems, are claiming their revenge for decades of human exploitation. The mountains are being overrun by commerce a million lorries a year cross the Alps: 50,000 vehicles a day use the Brenner motorway in the high season, emitting pollution levels equal to those of north

Cars are allowed to move ever higher in the mountains. At the foot of the most prominent peaks there are buge car parks. "Using a car as a private cave from which to stare out at mountain scenery is pointless — it does not encourage meditation, only pollu-

tion," said a top climber, Reinhold Messner, who is campaigning to save the Alps.

Global warming means that the snow arrives later each year and one has to go higher to ski. This is had for tourism. So the regional tourism managers deploy snow cannon firing volleys of water on to the slopes and devastating the plant life.

The martial simile is appropriate: mankind is at war with Europe's most spectacular natural resource. Every winter 70,000 kilos (154,000 lb) of explosives is dropped from helicopters or ski lifts to make the pistes shiny and so keep the visiting skier happy.

so keep the visiting skier happy.

Avalanche researchers in Switzerland and Franceknow that the climate is changing dramatically.

Last summer was unusually hot in the Alps and this winter was always likely to be odd.

always likely to be odd.

Rudi Mair of the Avalanche Research Centre, based at Davos, Switzerland, said the latest avalanches, although so far not as deadly as those of the winter of 1951, are the result of an extraordinarily unhappy combination: new snow falling intensely for a week and, because of the extremely cotd temperatures, not binding

with the existing snow blanket.

Gales shifted this unstable snow. Then came rain which made the snow not only unstable but also heavy. More than 40 people have died in the Alps this winter. It is a safe bet that this will not be the final death toll. The mountain gods are angry.

# Second avalanche hits Tyrol resort

FROM POCER ROVER IN LANDSCH. DEGEROOM ALCOHOL

A SECOND avalanche 45 ft high hit the outskirts of the Austrian resort of Galtür last night, heightening fears that tourists and villagers trapped in the Tyrolean village would be entombed by snow unless they were evacuated swiftly.

Rescue workers launched a huge helicopter airlift to clear the resort — known as the "Gem of the Tyrol" — before more avalanches occur. About 200 soldiers and firemen, using tracker dogs and scanning devices, managed to recover 16 corpses, including three children and a pregnant woman. About 25 people are missing pd the toll is certain to rise in the worst Austrian alpine disaster in almost 50 years.

aster in almost 50 years.

At the onset of darkness yesterday, the airlift had to be called off as visibility was reduced to ten yards and warnings grew of a snow storm. The second avalanche hit a few scattered houses between the villages of Galtür and Ischgl, heightening fears that the suffering was not yet over.

"It's a race against time,"
Major Thomas Schönherr, of
the Austrian Army, said. "The
weather forecast is poor and
new snow is expected."

The avalanche hit Galtūr at speeds of 180mph, destroying four buildings and stopping just short of the church.

Doctors said yesterday that although there was little chance of finding survivors under the tonnes of snow — since most avalanche victims suffocate after about 15 minutes — there could be people still clinging to life in the corners of the

ruined, buried buildings.
"At first we thought we had a chance and that we could revive some of those we pulled out of the snow. But it was hopeless, just hopeless," said one of the doctors.

More than 2,000 tourists and villagers shivering with cold and suffering from shock,

waited yesterday for the promised evacuation. But even with helicopters landing and taking off every two minutes — the scores of Austrian helicopters were supported by ten large US Blackhawks from Nato bases in Bavaria and 40 helicopters from Italy — there seemed to be no chance of emptying the village before nightfall and the onset of new snow. Many will have to endure a

their faces streaked with tears,

second night of fear.

Early today those co-ordinating the rescue operation will decide whether to clear the ap-



Rescue workers tend a victim airlifted from Galtur

proach roads, a task that could take at least six hours. Meteorologists indicate that there may be relatively less snow today and tomorrow, offering a window of opportunity to evacuate those trapped, before the weather turns nasty again at

the weekend.

Galtür is one of a dozen villages in the Tyrol, the Vorarlberg and neighbouring Switzerland to be cut off. The others include the fashionable resort of Lech, where the mayor says inhabitants are running short of fresh food, and among whose trapped victims are Princess Caroline of Monaco and her husband Prince Ernst August of Hanover.

But these villages do not face the imminent danger of Galtür, where the sense of despair is growing by the hour. In a telephone call from the village Dr Ulrike Köhler appealed for faster action. "We need many, many more helicopters. We have been standing here since early morning with nothing but blankets and tea... We have to get out."

tea...We have to get out."
Viktor Klima, the Austrian
Prime Minister, promised to
cut red tape and provide urgent aid to all victims. He also
backs a local decision to start
evacuating the whole of the
Paznaum Valley where about
20,000 people are stranded.



# THE ALPS Railways: 5,000 miles. Reads: 55,000 miles. Ski lijis: 12,000. Airfields: 300.

Arriedes, 200.
Concentration of people in Alphae reserts during light scanning Between 2,500 and 5,000 per require mile.
Manufact of pistes; 40,000, with a total.

# Hopes fade for lost hikers

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

IN SWITZERLAND the death toll from a series of avalanches climbed to nine yesterday as rescue teams found the body a farmer near the ruins of his 200-year old home in the central canton of Uri.

Rescuers were still searching for three French tourists after a weekend avalanche in the southwestern village of Evolène where seven people died. In France fears were grow-

ing for three hikers who have been missing for eight days in arctic conditions in the Alps. The hikers have been able to contact rescuers by mobile phone and are sheltering in a makeshift igloo high in the mountains. An unsuccessful

pre-dawn rescue attempt yesterday by four helicopters was hampered by fog. Emergency workers were preparing for another rescue attempt last

One of two hikers who had been missing for four days in the Pyrenees died of hypothermia in hospital yesterday, just a few hours after he and his woman partner were rescued.

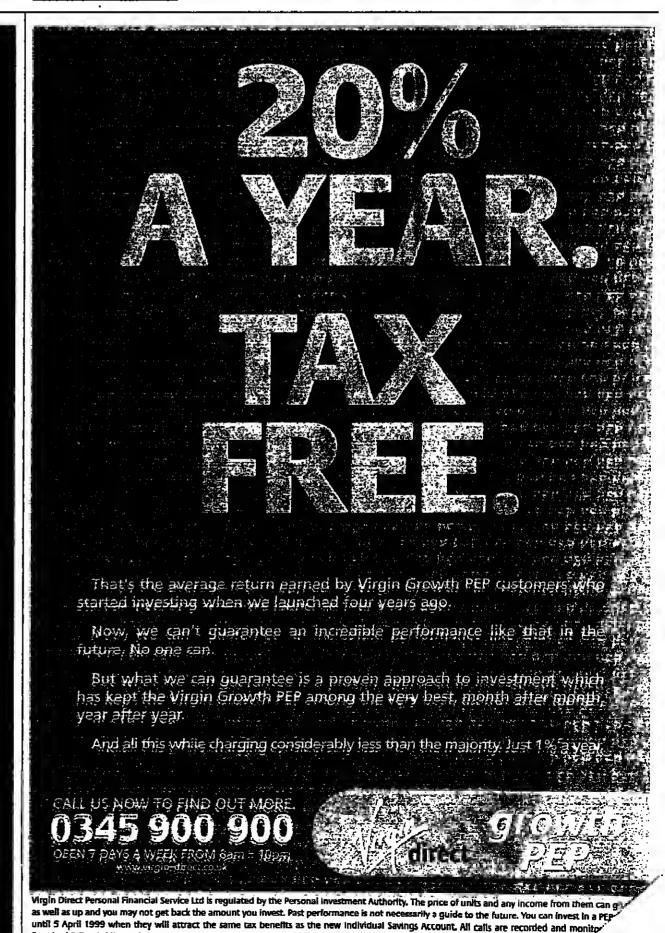
LAURA ASHLEY

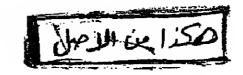
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# VSO recruits flee 'workaholic' life

Nurses lead surge in Third World volunteers, reports Helen Rumbelow

A CRISIS in job satisfaction and Britain's "workaholic" culture are thought to be behind a big rise in people volunteering 10 Work in the Third World.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) said yesterday that it had received a 25 per cent surge in applications in the past year, the largest increase in nearly a decade. faction with work, which takes

It has been overwhelmed by applications from nurses, a 55 per cent rise in a year of conflict between the profession and the Government over pay and conditions.

In total more than 19,000 people have contacted VSO about volunteering in the past six months. It has 1,700 people abroad in 61 countries.

In an attempt to discover the cause of the rise, the organisaoon commissioned a survey which found that over half the British workforce think people are becoming workaholics to keep up with their jobs.

One in four people felt that work was "taking over their lives" and a similar number felt their values were different from their employer's, according to survey of more than 1,000 adults by NOP.

Two-thirds of people said that they would choose a job that paid less but was more enjoyable over a better-paid job. Jonathan Dimbleby, the broadcaster and VSO president, said of the survey: "It's good news wrapped in bad news. The good news is that our fellow men and women have values that mean more than just money but it is in the context of rather depressing news about their levels of satis-

up 100,000 hours of our lives."

like to." The Royal College of Nursing said that the numbers of members volunteering to work abroad came as no

"Nurses are obviously highly skilled people with a lot of transferable skills and in this country we are seeing them leave nursing because they feel undervalued and under

stress." it said. Matthew Bell, director of

The Third World is benefiting from the expertise of British nurses because of a demoralised NHS?

The Third World was benefiting from the British expertise in nursing because of a demoralised NHS, he said. "To have a surge in nursing

applicants at a time when the Government is trying to respond to an 18,000 shortfall in nurses must be very worrying for the health service."
He added: "Nurses come to

us saying they find their work increasingly stressful, with vioare not able to take care of pa-tients in the way they would

communications at VSO, said that the millennium was also motivating people to change direction. The survey found that it was making 20 per cent of people question how much they got out of life. "The end of the century gives people pause for thought, like birthdays or new year, and now they feel that they're working harder and harder, slogging away at their job but that they may not

even be in tune with what they A typical nursing volunteer is Sandy Hazzard, from Bedford, who is planning to leave for the Tropics after more than 20 years of working in Britain. She has yet to decide her destination but feels that her working conditions in recent years

have compelled her to leave. She said: "I have become more disillusioned with working in the health service, more stressed. My life now seems to be work, work, work,

"I just feel that the time is right to move out of my current entrapment and go and do something for which I will personally feel more valued, where my knowledge and skills gained over the years will be utilised to the full."

She works at senior management level at a hospital she prefers not to name where she says that lack of staffing has put on tremendous pressure.

There is so much more pressure on nurses who are working at an increasing pace all the time, they do feel very devalued and demoralised."

Ms Hazzard has grown-up children who were surprised by her announcement but now they are supportive. Most of her colleagues regard her with some envy, she said. "A lot of them say, 'I wish I could do



### **Dobson** hails nursing campaign.

By A CORRESPONDENT

A GOVERNMENT campaign to attract former nurses back to the NHS was hailed as a success yesterday by Frank Dob-son, the Health Secretary.

Since the launch of the E5 million advertising cam-paign at the end of last month 2,920 qualified nurses have contacted the 24-hour recruit-ment line for information packs. By 5pm yesterday 36,500 people had called the Nursing Line expressing an in-

terest in the profession.

Health officials said that the calls from trained nurses meant that almost one in six of those not currently working in.,the health service had contact. ed the line in 24 days.

Ministers have increase the number of nurse training places but are desperate to ture experienced professionals. back from the independent sec. tor. They also want to entice women who have given up nursing to have a family back to the profession with familyfriendly practices and flexible

Mr Dobson said: "This is a ? hugely encouraging response. It shows that our package of measures is proving attractive to the pool of qualified nurses

not working in the NHS. Getting more nurses back into the NHS, particularly experienced nurses, is key to the modernisation of the NHS.

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STOVES

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# **Dome snow** starts blizzard of souvenirs

A MILLENNIUM Dome in a snowstorm will be launched on the Christmas toy market as part of a variety of souvenirs ranging from fridge mag-nets to Wedgwood dinner services. The merchandising strategy for the Greenwich exhibi-tion was unveiled yesterday, along with a bargadi travel of-fer and details of a zone made entirely from cardboard.

The Dome in a snowstorm may be considered by some to be in dubious taste, following the collapse under heavy snow in Montreal this winter of a stadium roof built by the same company which supplied the roof in Greenwich.

Other souvenirs are likely to become collectors' items. Dartington Crystal, Staffordshire Tableware and Remarkable Pencils have been chosen to produce crystal glasses, finebone china and time capsules. Pencil sharpeners, attache cases, backpacks, satchels, tea cloths and lapel badges showing the Dome or its motif will arrive in shops in the autumn. A range of milkennium books is being launched. The Story Behind The Dome is being written by Adam Nicolson, author of Restoration:

sions between politicians, contractors and executives. There will be a 3D Pop Up Model of the Dome. Dorling Kindersley is also producing a cross-section poster of the Dome, a sticker book, Factas-

The Rebuilding of Windsor Castle. He has been given ex-

clusive access to private discus-

tic Millennium Facts, a personal organiser and Millennium Child, a snapshot of Brit ish children. For adults, there will be a coffee table photographic book The Millennium. Experience and The Millennium Dome - The Official. Book. HarperCollins is launching a Dome map and The Sacred Sites of Britain Millenni-

um Experience Game. A giant spiral building made of recycled cardboard was unveiled as one of the most innovative attractions of the Dome. The Local Zone, created from a million pieces of card and some steel, will be the first paper building in Europe. A Japanese designer Shigeru Ban, who has created sturdy structures from paper, is advising the architects Gu. muchdjian & Spence. It will be varnished to be fireproof.

Viewers of BBC's Blue Peter. programme were asked on Monday to send pieces of cardboard to a paper mill in Hali-fax. The first 50,000 will have their names displayed in the Dome. By yesterday, the Post Office had to provide a truck to deliver all the cardboard. The architect Philip Gumuch djian, producing a model of his house of cards at New Millennium Experience Companyheadquarters, said: "It's the ulattimate case of saying, Here "

one I made earlier."

Travel packages are being negotiated. National Expressis offering £9.99 return fares.

# Smith reassures Church leaders

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, yesterday reassured Church leaders that Christianity will have a place at the heart of celebrations in the Dome in the face of a boycott threat led by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Giving evidence to the Commons Culture Select Committee. Mr Smith told MPs that fears that Christianity was being sidelined were "unnecessary worries", and pledged that festivities would reflect the millennium's significance

as a "Christian anniversary". The move by the Culture Secretary, who also chairs the Millennium Commission, follows remarks by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, that he and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, might boycott the Dome on New Year's Eve if its celebrations were not "an-

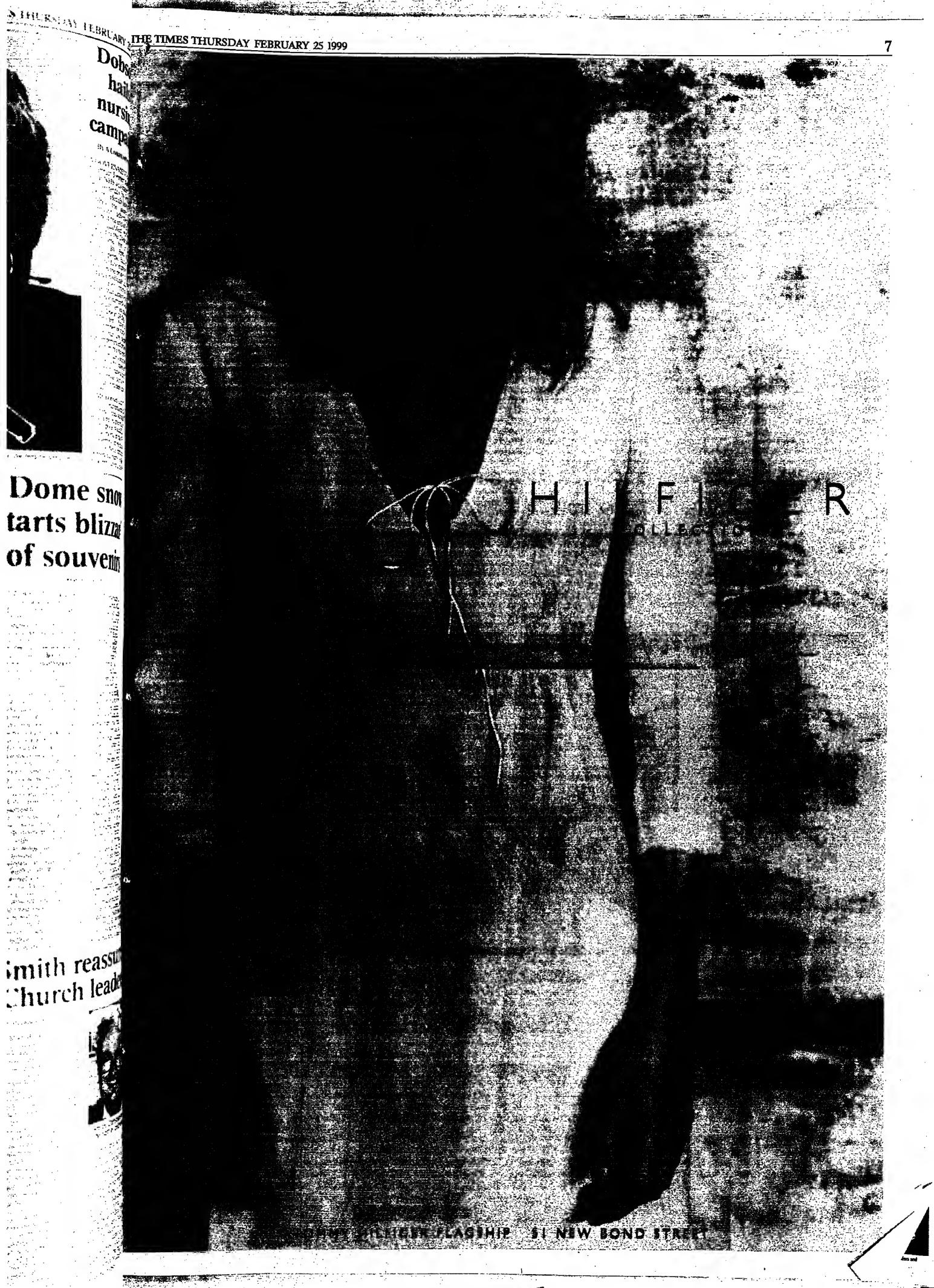
chored in incarnation". The religious leaders "will be in our churches" if there is no significant Christian element in the Dome. Dr Carey says in an interview with the Catholic Herald. Mr Smith



be part of celebration

confirmed that the "Millennis um Moment — a church sponsored initiative under which people will light a candle for a minute's reflection. and read an ecumenical affirmation of hope - would form part of the build-up to midnight in the Dome.

The New Millennium Experience Company had concerns about the safety of 10,000 peo [ple lighting candles together-but solutions such as electric candles were being sought, he said. Church leaders would be welcome guests.



Jest is 1 iso

# Rail chiefs face passenger's ire

Summit on state of the railways could turn into a a blood-letting session, reports Arthur Leathley

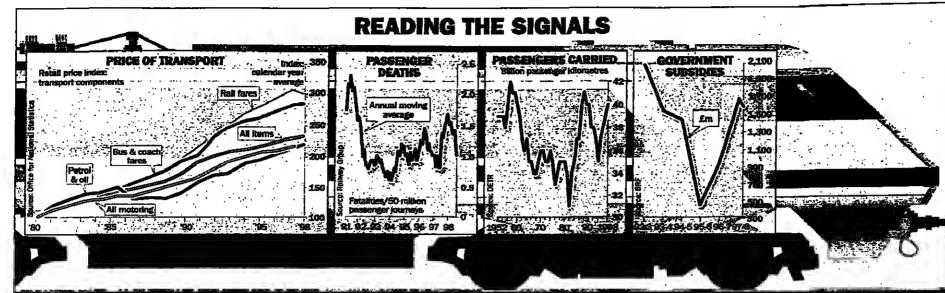
FIVE regular train users will lead a "people's protest" over railway standards at the first public railway summit today. The passengers will address a London conference called by John Prescott and attended by

Tony Blair and senior figures from most of Britain's big rail companies. The Deputy Prime Minister has called regular travellers from all over Britain to the conference to voice their

The passengers, selected by rail-user groups, have been en-couraged by government officials to give a "warts and all" assessment of the railways. Their views are expected to spark a heated debate which senior industry figures fear could reduce the conference to a blood-letting session.

Tensions are running high within the rail industry, which has been lambasted by Mr Prescou as a "national dis-grace" and is faced with halting steady increases in laterunning trains.

Mr Prescott underlined his commitment to improving railway standards last night by announcing the appointment of



former chairman of Eurotunnel, as chairman of the Strategic Rail Authority, which is to be set up in April to oversee regulation. Although Alastair will begin E120,000 21:-days-a-week job immediately, Mr Prescott has yet to receive the go-ahead for legislation to give the authority important powers.

Some companies are expected to mount a vigorous defence at today's summit. They claim that Mr Prescott's repeated criticism is in danger of undermining a fledgling priva-tised industry that has made other improvements. Rail managers cite reduced fares on the busiest routes, more passengers, higher investment, im-

proved safety and better train information as evidence that privatisation is already bringing passenger benefits. Also speaking today is Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister. who will present a vox pop film of passenger opinion.

Government officials insist that the aim of today's summit is to foster more positive rela-tions within the industry. However several senior figures among the 200 people attending fear the day could be marred by the settling of old scores within the industry. "You cannot have six hours of sensible debate without some pretty significant differences of opinion. It will either be stage-managed and meaningless or pretty bloody and effective," a director of a Londonbased train company said.

Punctuality remains the in-dustry's Achilles' heel, with delays slipping back to levels en-dured by British Rail passengers. After an unprecedented improvement in the first year of privatisation, when almost 94 per cent of trains ran on time, the level has slipped to 90 per cent.

"We can't overstate the importance of punctuality and we must put it right." says Gerald Corbett, of Railtrack, which claims a 40 per cent fall in the number of delays attributable to its track and signalling problems. Railtrack has set out plans to spend more than £17 billion over ten years

billion in track and station improvements. But Railtrack has been criti-

cised publicly and privately by many of the 25 train operators and the rail regulator for its failure to invest sufficiently.

Concerns over safety on the railways has brought Railtrack under heavy pressure. However, although Railtrack has acknowledged worries over the training of some of its sub-contractors, the number of train collisions and deaths are at their lowest levels since the Second World War.

Christopher Garnett, chief executive of Great North Eastern Railway, one of the more successful train companies. will set out details of £2 billion

taken by train companies. This contrasts with a stagnation in investment under British Rail, train firms say.

He will tell Mr Prescott that more than 1,500 new trains are due to be delivered over the next two years to help the industry to cope with the 1,000 additional daily services put on since privatisation.

Train operators will also point to the rapid growth in passenger numbers, which have risen by some 15 per cent across the network and by more than 30 per cent on some routes. The increases have put the industry on course to break the 1947 postwar record for passenger journeys within the next two years.

Operators say that

growth is in part caused by the below-inflation fare rises of the past two years, which they claim have saved passengers some £120 million. However, some of the growth can be attributed to increased economic prosperity and tightening up of ticket inspection, which has brought in revenue lost under

British Rail. Train firms are concerned that Mr Prescott's demands continued passenger growth sit uneasily with his pressure for immediate improvements in punctuality. Train companies insist that the growth in passengers, leading to more trains being run. will have a negative effect on lines that are already heavily

# was over and out

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

TWO aircraft were left circling in the dark above an airport after the only air traffic controller on duty slipped and broke

Greg Fanos, 39, had left the control tower at Bournemouth International Airport to make a cup of coffee a few minutes before the planes were due. He lipped on the stairs and broke

The pilots of the flights from Edinburgh and Malaga were unable to raise any response from the tower. The Euroscot ATR 72 turbo-prop, with 45 passengers, and the Palmair BAE 146 Whisper jet, with 88 passengers, flew circuits as Mr Fanos hauled himself back imstairs and summoned the airport fire brigade.

Mr Fanos, from Ringwood, Hampshire, said: "I was in terrible pain but forced myself to crawl back to the tower." Geoff Berryman, air traffic services manager, said: "There was no question of the

# Air control

his ankle in three places.

aircraft being in danger."

## Daughter admits neglect.

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

Family suicide suicide othwart

A woman who vacuumed round her mother during the seven days she lay collapsed on the floor admitted her manslaughter yesterday. Isabella Pearce, 62, died in hospital two days after she was taken unconscious by paramedics from the hallway of her bungalow. Her daughter, Benita Pearce, 33, a supermarket cashier from Foxbole, near St Austell, Cornwall, had gone to work, leaving her mother un-der a soiled duvet. Pearce had earlier denied manslaughter at Truro Crown Court but changed her plea after the judge rejected a defence submission that there was no case to answer. Sentence was adjourned for medical evidence.

#### River killing

Richard Archer, 41, a British car dealer who lived in Holland, drowned when he was thrown into a river in De Ronde Venen with concrete blocks tied to his feet, an inquest was told at Basingstoke. Verdict: unlawful killing.

#### Pavarotti date

19 9

in her

Honour to: Garage

that went in water

THE FOREST

Luciano Pavarotti will per-form to 45,000 people at the first concert to be held at Twickenham Rugby Ground, on June 19. It will be his only British concert this year and precedes his wedding to Nicoletta Mantovani, 28, in July.

#### Fire blunder

Fire destroyed almost a square mile of protected heath-land at Holt Heath nature re-serve near Wimborne, Deserve when "controlled burning by the conservation group Eng-lish Nature set alight heath and gorse bushes.

#### Smoker banned

The holiday airline Airtours banned a couple after one of them smoked in the lavatory on a flight to Calgary, Canada. Shane Baker and Josefa Perez had to pay £600 to fly home to Manchester with an other airline.

#### Egg thieves' haul

The nests of more than 60 rare breeding birds were plun-dered last year by egg thieves and bird of prey collectors. Most frequent targets were peregrines with 25 nests raid ed, the Royal Society for Protection of Birds reported.

#### CORRECTION

Our reproduction (February 17) of Paul Bryan's winning tune in St Paul's Cathedrai's millennium hymn competi tion wrongly indicated B flat in the third bar. It should have been a high D, and we apologise for the error.

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You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

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# Family made suicide pact to thwart Nazis

yesterday told the Old Bailey that he and his family hid in a trench and decided to commit suicide rather than be round-:- ed up by the Nazis who had already massacred 2,900 men. women and children.

His voice trembling with emotion, Ben-Zion Blustein titold Britain's first war crimes trial that he would never forrget the events surrounding the killings on Yorn Kippur, the Jewish holy day of atonement, ir i€eptember 1942.

Mr Blustein, 76, who now i lives in Israel, told a jury that ... he was not seeking retribution. Nodding in the direction of Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, who faces trial for murder under the War Crimes Act, he said: "I came to this trial as a mouth for the tens or hundreds of people killed by this man. I came to be their voice."

He said that on the eve of Yom Kippur he, his mother, stepfather and young sister and brother refused to answer the roll call that led to the oth-



Air commol

Was over

and out

Ben-Zion Blustein: never

Survivor tells Old Bailey war crimes trial that he is voice of the victims, reports

Barlas, being handed over to the defendant and to two other

policemen. Later, he said, Mr

Sawoniuk had told him Barlas

had been very courageous when he died and that he

would soon meet him in the

Mr Sawoniuk, he said, told

him: "Don't think that because

you are living here today you are going to live forever. As soon as the Germans leave

here they will hand the Jews

over to us and we will massa-

cre you as we have massacred

many up to this day."
Eventually, he said, he man-

aged to escape from the caval-

ry base and joined up with the partisans who were fighting in

the forests. He never saw his

family again.

Mr Sawoniuk, from Ber-

mondsey, South London, de-

nies four charges of murder.

The case continues.

next world.

**Tim Jones** er Jews in the ghetto in the village of Domachevo, which is now in Belarus, being herded down the road to be executed and thrown into mass graves.

Instead, he said, they squeezed into the freezing trench they had dug beneath their house and heard the sound of shootings and the cries of the dying.

In the darkness, he said. freezing and without food or water, they feared that escape into the forest was impossible and decided to commit suicide. His stepfather drank a bottle of morphine and suc-ceeded in killing himself but the powdered drugs the rest of them took did not work.

His mother told him she had a dream in which a rabbi had told her he should leave. In spite of his protests, he said, she ordered him to go. Eventually. Mr Blustein said, a Ger-man truck turned up carrying Jews who had been saved from the massacre because they were deemed to be useful. Mr Blustein attracted the attention of one of the Jews who told the Germans he was good with horses.

At the camp he was taken to, he said, he saw one Jew, Mir

Sir Evelyn and Lady de Rothschild: announced their separation after 25 years

# Marriage split for Rothschild banking chief

SIR Evelyn de Rothschild and his wife of 25 years are to separate, it was announced yesterday. The 67-year-old chairman of his family's banking firm, an intensely private man, issued a joint statement with Lady de Rothschild which said simply: "This is a private matter and no further

comment will be made." Sir Evelyn married the American-born Victoria Schott in 1973 in her native New York. The couple have two sons, Anthony and David, and a daughter, Jessica.

Earlier this week Sir Evelyn announced that he intended to sell the largest and most expensive apartment ever put on the market in Britain, priced at £14 million.

The maisonette in Belgravia, Central London, covers an area equal to a dozen semidetached houses. It was converted from the lower floors of two houses for Sir Evelyn, who bought it in 1997 but has never lived there. It is being sold as an empty shell. Last month it was reported that Sir Evelyn had bought a house in Cheyne Walk, one of London's most desirable addresses, for £12 million.

N.M. Rothschild, one of the oldest and most famous names in banking, is one of the few independent mer-chant banks left in London, founded in 1810 and run by family members ever since. Two years ago Amschel Rothschild, 41, a second cousin of Sir Evelyn who was a possible successor to head the family empire, committed suicide in

a Paris hotel. Last year the bank reported a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £70 million. Sir Eveyln's overall holding company. Rothschild Continuation Holdings, reported a 40 per cent increase in profits to £61 million.

Sir Evelynrecently joined a group campaigning against a plan by Thames Water to build 62 flats on the edge of Holland Park, near another of his homes in the capital.

# Honour for team that went to war

By Shirley English 47

gemembered in France next

A group of Edinburgh po-lice officers will lay a wreath at the Somme battlefield where the exclamation: "Scotland five of the first team squad of has done splendidly." Heart of Midlothian Football Club perished.

In November 1914 Hearts 'had won eight successive victories and were well on their ... way to becoming champions But when Kitchener launched his famous call to arms to combat a worrying dip in recruit-

THE only British football ment, the entire first team to enlist en masse to fight in the First World War will be burgh and signed up together. News of the action reached Whitehall via a telegram from an Edinburgh city official and was reportedly greeted with

> The team and many of their followers formed C Charlie Company of the 16th Battalion of the Royal Scots, where their presence earned it the nickname "Sportsmen's battalion". By the end of the war seven of the 15-strong squad were



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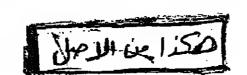




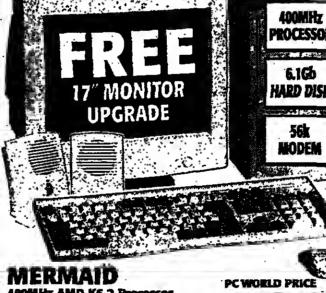


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# Homosexual TV drama offends gays

A NEW television drama with graphic depictions of underage homosexual sex has drawn condemnation from viewers' organisations and

from gay groups.
The first episode of Channel
4's Queer As Folk on Tuesday
night included explicit scenes
of a promiscuous man of 29 seducing a 15-year-old boy whom he picked up in Manchester's "gay village". The na-ive "by was deposited at the school door the next day to the taunts of fellow pupils.

The programme drew a high number of complaints from the public. Gay rights campaigners and viewers' associations were united in their condemnation, accusing it of negative stereotypes and interfering with a political debate on lowering the age of consent for homosexuals. Gub Neal, Channel 4's head

of drama, said that it was in-tended to show gay life in ways that other channels "won't or can't". He added: "It doesn't condone underage sex. lt's not seeking to portray Nathan, the 15-year-old character, as a victim. It can be a reality for gay men in the 1990s. The sex scenes are no more graphic than in other TV dramas shown on other channels

post watershed."
The new series comes a month after the arrival on the channel of Sex in the City. a controversial comedy about dating and mating in New

Explicit scenes bring protests

from a range of pressure groups,

reports Helen Rumbelow

York. Queer As Folk is more graphic, both in terms of language and sexual content. John Beyer, the general sec-retary of the National Viewers'

homophob

suspicion of

Channel 4's motives for such a

shocking first episode. 'They

put in a lot that was controver-

sial for the commercial reason

that people will want to keep

watching it," a spokesman

against

ia,expressed

Listeners' Association. said it would complain to the Independent Television Commission. The channel owed the public an explanation of how it met statutory require-ments of good taste and decen-cy, he said. This is Channel 4's attempt to influence public opinion at a time when there's a debate about the age of con-sent for homosexuals."

Brenda Oakes, a Manchester parent and spokesperson for the Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, said that the show was unrealistic about gay life and damaging for the cause of young homo-sexuals. "We are always pleased to see gay issues being tackled on television but are disappointed that Channel 4 have gone for sensationalism and stereotypes. We are campaigning for equal age of con-



The Queer as Folk cast, from front, Charlie Hunnan, Aidan Gillen and Craig Kelly

# Houdini's one that got away is found at last

By PAUL WILKINSON NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

HARRY HOUDINI'S one attempt to break into films has been discovered and will be screened at a festival in Brit-

ain next month.

The film starring the escapologist, a science-fiction melodrama titled The Man From Beyond, was made in 1922 and disappeared shortly afterwards. Now a copy of the old acetate film has been restored and will be shown in March at the Bradford Film Festival.

Bill Lawrance, the head of cinema at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Televisioo in Bradford, said: "I have just been talking to an expert of the period and be was unaware of this attempt by Houdini to get into movies. "Because no one seems to

know about it, would suggest that it was not a success at the box office. Certainly we know of no other film by Houdini."

The 70-minute silent feature tells the story of a man who is rescued from an Arctic iceflow where he has been entombed



A poster for the film, unseen since its release

for 100 years. He is slowly thawed out and returns to New York where he attends the wedding of a young woman who is the image of his own fiancée a century before. He discovers his love was this

woman's grandmother. Houdini manages some great escapes, including a scene where he saves a woman from falling over the edge of the Niagara Falls.

### Leah head | Clubbers **'helpless** against dealers'

By A Correspondent

THE head teacher of Leah Lawson, found dead from a respected drugs overdose, said yesterday that her school was powerless against dealers on the estate where she lived.

Andrew Howlett, of Wintringham School, Grimsby, said that he had been aware of Leah's problems with drugs. Teachers, her family and social services had done their

best to help her.
"At 13, Leah had a lifetime to look forward to. Her life was tragically cut short by her vul-nerability to those who place the value of money above the value of a life, he said. "Schools cannot overcome the menace of drug abuse or eradicate it from society, which must face up to and produce effective strategies to prevent the misery and despair pro-duced by drug-taking."

Leah was found slumped on sofa at home on Saturday, The victim of what her mother, sean, said she thought was a combination of methadone, Valium anti nitrazepam.

Mr Howlett said that Leah was a kind and caring girl who "demonstrated sympathy and warmth" to her friends, but also "lived in a roller-coaster world where her moods would swing from happiness to despair. In recent months she had shown signs of in-

creasing maturity.

□ Police investigating Leah's death were questioning two people yesterday. A woman aged 24 was arrested on suspi-cion of supplying class A and C drugs and a man aged 46 was arrested on suspicion of theft and assisting the woman.

# of both sexes take Viagra

By Ian Murray Medical Correspondent

YOUNG women and men are buying Viagra in nightclubs. Most take the anti-impotence drug with illegal drugs, oblivi-ous to the medical risks. All claim that it improves their

Researchers have discov ered that within weeks of Viagra being licensed last September it was available in clubs at £10 for a 50mg tablet, about double the prescription price. Judith Aldridge and Flona Measham of Manchester University were carrying out a two-year study of drug use among clubbers. A survey at a Manchester club last October revealed that 15 out of the 519 people asked to fill in a quesfionnaire said that they had used Viagra. The ten men and five women, of whom 14 were

In a letter to the British Medical Journal the two senior research fellows say that the 15 ciubbers reported having used at least one other illegal drug. All but one had taken amyl nitrate, known in clubs as "poppers", which reacts with sildenafil, the active in-

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sexual performance.

white and one Afro-Caribbean, were aged from 19 to 34.
They obtained the drug from friends, partners, dealers, sex slops and Internet addresses.

gredient of Viagra, to cause a sudden fall in blood pressure

that could lead to a stroke.
Dr Measham said yesterday: "The 15 represent 3 per cent of those we interviewed, a cent of those we interviewed, a shatteringly high figure given that the drug had only been li-censed for a very short time. These were just the ones who admitted taking Viagra."

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Ralf Höhne Systems Analyst

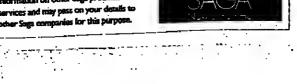


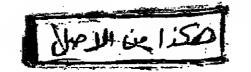
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# George is jeered for refusing to apologise

nor of the Bank of England. was jeered on Tyneside yester-day during a visit in which he refused to apologise for remarks that have enraged peo-

It was his first visit since his comments to a local newspaper in October that job losses in the region were a price worth paying to curb inflation

As he stepped out of his car to deliver a speech at the New-castle Civic Centre he was greeted with shouts of "scurn" and "come and talk to us you coward" from a small crowd. Several people waved banners saying: "Am I a price

apology Eddic?" and "The price you should pay — a P45". Inside Mr George thanked the audience of business leaders for their warm reception, addone I received outside."

He was also able to achieve some personal satisfaction by putting down the reporter whose story sparked the controversy last year. Paul Linford, political editor of the Newcastle Journal, asked him: "Do you think you owe an apology to the people of the North East who lost their jobs last summer as a result of your

Mr George replied: "Abso-

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lutely not I suggest you go back to political reporting rather than economic reporting." tn his speech Mr George said he had "learnt a lesson about a particular journalistic technique which perhaps I should have learnt before, It

a certain amount of hot water I am used to that in my job. "It was disappointing, first,

because of its unnecessary damaging effect on morale here in the region at what I know is a difficult time. And it was disappointing, too, bewas a disappointing expericause it created the impression that we at the Bank of Eng-

land don't care about unem-

ployment.
"In fact nothing could be further from the truth. Of course we care, just as you do, about activity and jobs in every sector of the economy and in every part of the country. So I've come to the North East today to set the record straight."

But afterwards Bill Midge-, president of the North East Chamber of Commerce, which arranged the visit, said: "I am disappointed. He really has not given us any hope for the future. His speech was more like that of a first-year economics student at university.

We are going to see more pain for the companies of this region. He talked about more companies taking up the challenge but the way things are going there won't be any companies to do so."

The trip was criticised after it became obvious that Mr George would not meet redundant workers or the public and media except in strictly controlled circumstances. Four of his six appearances were private; cameras were allowed in to only two.

Advisers at the Bank said that he would not talk to reporters at either of them. Seperate interviews were granted to local broadcasters but he did not speak to local or national newspapers.

is almost like a royal visit, it is

so carefully orchestrated. "We had hoped he would have a look at some of the damage the Bank's policies have done as well as seeing some of the successes. Since his comments last October we haven't had an answer to our

questions." Mr George's words had come just as the region learns that almost 2,500 jobs were going at the Grove crane-makers plant in Sunderland and microchip factories run by Fujitsu in Co Durham and Sie-

mens on North Tyneside. The jobless total is still rising, contrary to the national trend, and unemployment is twice the national average. In an interview with BBC Radio Newcastle yesterday Mr George was asked if he would course I very much regret the misrepresentation of what I said and particularly report the damage that did to mound in the North East. I am very

sensitive to that." He agreed he had spoken the words as quoted. "But I then went on to explain that the sense was that stability is what we target and that has produced the lowest unemploy-

٦:

ment for 20 years. "It is true not just for the country as a whole but also every region in the country, in-cluding the North East. That is still higher than anyone would like and it is still higher try as a whole but it is lower than it has been since 1980. That is the context in which I made the remark."



Demonstrators make their point outside the civic centre

### Warming extends growing seasons

By NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SPRING is coming to Europe six days earlier than it was 30 years ago because of global warming, a scientific survey has found. Autumn is arriving almost five days later.

After a study of gardens from freland to Hungary and from Finland to Macedonia. researchers from the University of Munich say in the journal Nature: This means the average annual growing season has lengthened by 10.8 days since the early 1960s. These shifts can be attributed to

changes in air temperature." Critics of the global-warming theory argue that rising use of electricity, central heating and other heat producing factors has artifically raised the temperature of cities, and that the rise has nothing to do with increasing levels of car-bon dioxide building up in the atmospere and trapping the sun's heat.

The new research supports man-made global warming as the reason for the early spring and delayed autumn. "Only a few of the gardens are situated in city areas where the urban heat island could influence trends," it says. The study includes 616 springtime and 178 autumn surveys in the Interna-tional Phenological Gardens network, which includes the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. All hold genetically iden-

### House prices . reach a £35m high

By Rachel Kelly PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE most expensive home ever to be offered on the open market in Britain is for sale at E35 million. The new owner's neighbours will be Princess Margaret, several other royals and the Sultan of Brunei.

The Crown Estate is selling 15a Kensington Palace Gardens, beside Kensington Palace in London. The 19th-century, five-storey, brick building has a swimming pool which extends from the basement un-

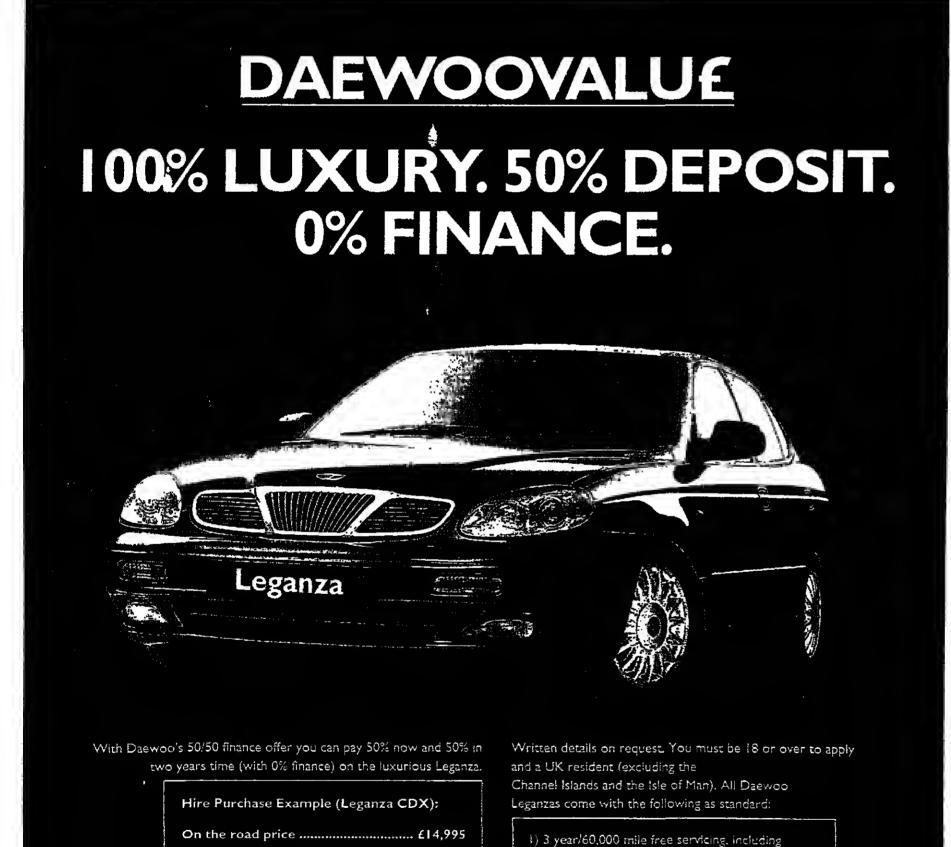
der the garden.

The 20,000 sq ft house has grand entertaining rooms on the ground floor but purists might argue that the house is on the wrong side of the street because it does not back on to the grounds of Kensington Gardens.

There are ten bedroom and bathroom suites on the top three floors, and staff accommodation in a two storey

house at the end of the garden. The house, which is being sold on a new 90 year lease. was built in 1855 by the Blackfriars developer John Marriott Blashfield who was responsible for most of Kensington Pal-ace Gardens development. He later went bankrupt.

It was previously the home of the Nigerian High Commis-sion, which moved out five years ago. Since then the property has stood empty awaiting refurbishment by the Crown



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# Racist murder an affront to society'

ROCHESTER WAY

## Graphic account of 20 seconds that ended the life of Stephen Lawrence

By Alan Hamilton

GRAPHIC and unequivocal language colours the opening chapters of Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's report. where he describes the incident lasting no more than 20 seconds that ended the life of Stephen Lawrence.

Stephen had been with his friend Duwayne Brooks during the afternoon of April 22, 1993. They were on their way home when at about 10.30pm they came to a bus stop in Well Hall Road in Eltham, southeast London. Stephen went to see if a bus was coming, and reached a position almost in the centre of the mouth of Dickson Road.

"Mr Brooks was part of the way between Dickson Road and the roundabout when he saw the group of five or six white youths who were responsible for Stephen's death on the opposite side of the road. Mr Brooks called out to ask if Stephen saw the bus coming. One of the youths must have heard something said, since-he called out what, what nigger?" With that the group came quickly across the road and literally engulfed Stephen."

Three witnesses were at the bus stop; all of them said the atnone was able later to identify

any of the suspects. The group of white murderers then disappeared down Dickson Road. We refer to them as a group of murderers

because that is exactly what

they were; young men bent on violence of this sort rarely act on their own. They are cowards and need the support of at least a small group in order to bolster their actions."

The report continues: There is little doubt that all of them would have been held to be responsible for the murder had they been in court together with viable evidence against them. This murder has the hallmarks of a joint enter-

Stephen had been stabbed to a depth of about five inches on both sides of the front of his body to the chest and arm. Both stah wounds severed axil-lary arteries and blood must have been pumping out of and into his body as he ran up the road to join his friend, the report says. In the words of the patholo-

gist who later examined the body: "It is surprising that he managed to get 130 yards with all the injuries he had, but also the fact that the deep penetrat-ing wound of the right side caused the upper lobe to par-tially collapse his lung. It is therefore a testimony to Stephen's physical fitness that he was able to run the distance

No great quantity of blood marked the scene of the attack or Stephen's subsequent track because he was wearing five layers of clothing. But when he fell he was

bleeding freely, and nearly all

of the witnesses who saw him ying there speak of a substantial quantity of blood." He lay

by chance in the recovery posi-

tion, his head looking left into

THE NIGHT OF

**APRIL 22, 1993** 

the road and his left arm up. The medical evidence indi-cates that Stephen was dead before he was removed by the ambulancemen some time later. The amount of blood which had been lost would have made it probable that Stephen died where he fell on the pavement, and probably within a short time of his fall."

The report praises PC James Geddis, an off-duty officer driv-ing past the scene with his wife on his way home from a prayer meeting. PC Geddis stopped to investigate, covered Stephen with a blanket or rug but, assuming the youth was in the care of others, did not administer first aid.

"We formed a favourable impression of PC Geddis and we reject the suggestion that he was not speaking the truth. He was after all the Good Samaritan who stopped when he saw

that something had happened absence. Even now after the on the pavement." unprecedented publicity of Sir William then says starkthis inquiry, nobody has come

forward to advance the case."

There is no doubt whatsoev-

ly: "Stephen Lawrence's murder was simply and solely and unequivocally motivated by racism. It was the deepest trag-edy for his family. It was an af-front to society, and especially to the local black community in Greenwich. Nobody has been convicted of this awful crime. That also is an affront both to the Lawrence family

Stephen and Duwayr

and the community at large." Those violent seconds in 1993 have been followed by extraordinary activity, without satisfactory result. From the Lawrence family's point of . view, Sir William says, there has been a sequence of disasters and disappointments.

"Prolonged police investigaoons, in two distinct phases, produced no witnesses other than Mr Brooks who could properly purport to identify any of the attackers. Other sound evidence against the prime suspects, or against anybody else, is conspicuous by its

to underplayed dissatisfaction and unhappiness of minority ethnic communities, both local-

ly and all over the country, in

er, the report says, that the connection with this and other cases, as to their treatment by first Metropolitan Police investigation was palpably flawed Sir William emphasises one aspect of the case which, he and deserves severe criticism. But the underlying causes of that failure are more troublesays, has received less attensome and potentially more sintion than it should, 'The very ister. The impact of incompeexistence of a sub-culture of obtence and racism, and the sessive violence, fuelled by racist prejudice and hatred against black people, such as is exemplified in the 1994 video aura of corruption or collusion, have been the subject of much evidence and debate. We believe that the immedi-

films of the five prime sus-pects, is a condemnation of ate impact of the inquiry, as it developed, has brought forcithem and also of our society." bly before the public the justifi-He continues: "The nature able complaints of Mr and of [the suspects] in 1994, and in-

deed during their limited testimony in 1998, must surely make us all determined that by education, family and community influence, proper polic-ing, and all available means society does all that it can to ensure that the minds of present and future generations are not allowed to become violent and

maliciously prejudiced." Sir William adds: "If these suspects were not involved, there must have been five or six almost idenocal young thugs at large on the night of April 22, 1993, to commit this terrible racist crime."

And he continues: "We must all see to it that such crimes do not and cannot happen again. A high priority must be for so-

We must all see to it that such crimes do not and cannot happen again?

ciety to purge itself of such rac-ist prejudice and violence which infected those who committed this crime for no other reason than that Stephen Lawrence was black." Sir William concludes his in-

troduction by quoting Lord Scarman's report on the Brixton riots of 1981, in which he says that racial disadvantage is a fact of Briosh life, and that urgent action is required if it is not to become an endemic, ineradicable disease.

"It is a sad reflection upon the intervening years," Sir Wil-liam concludes 18 years later, "that those extracted words have remained relevant throughout both parts of our Inquiry."



Warming extends orowing.

# Praise for couple who comforted dying victim

'You are loved, you are loved' may have been the last words that Stephen ever heard

THE report reserves special praise for Conor and Louise
Taaffe, who came upon the dying teenager as they walked from a prayer meeting at their local Roman Catholic church.

Mrs Taaffe understood that hearing was the last sense retained by the dying, and whispered to him: "You are loved, you are loved." Mr Taaffe's first thought

was to try to place the injured youth in the recovery position, having seeo a televisioo broadcast on the St John Ambulance, but could not recall exactly what should be done. His wife said: "Oh no. no, Conor, he is the correct position, he is in the recovery position already." As Stephen lay on the pavement, Mr Taaffe remembered an involuntary movement of the head to the left and a sound as if Stephen was choking and trying to breathe. He put his hand on the young man's back and felt



When Conor Taaffe washed the blood from his hands, he poured the water on a rose

the attackers had carried an iron bar. Mr Taaffe's reaction was to think: "My God, what did they do with an iron bar to cause these injuries?"

in evidence, Mr Taaffe denied oews reports that his wife had cradled the dying Stephen's head. "She put her hand oo Stephen's head and whispered in his ear. Tyou are loved, you are loved'." By the time an ambulance

arrived, it was evident that Stephen was dead. The couple said they would return to their church to pray for Stephen. When Mr Taaffe returned home, he washed the blood container, and poured the water at the foot of a rose tree.

The reports says: "The actions of Mr and Mrs Taaffe deserve nothing but praise. to be applauded."

# Legacy will be social change

bered as a talented student whose legacy was to bring about change in society, the inquiry report concluded.

in a chapter devoted to Stephen and his parents, Neville and Doreen, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny wrote: "Stephen Lawrence was only 18 years old when he was murdered. He was happy and, as Doreen Lawrence told us, very bright. He

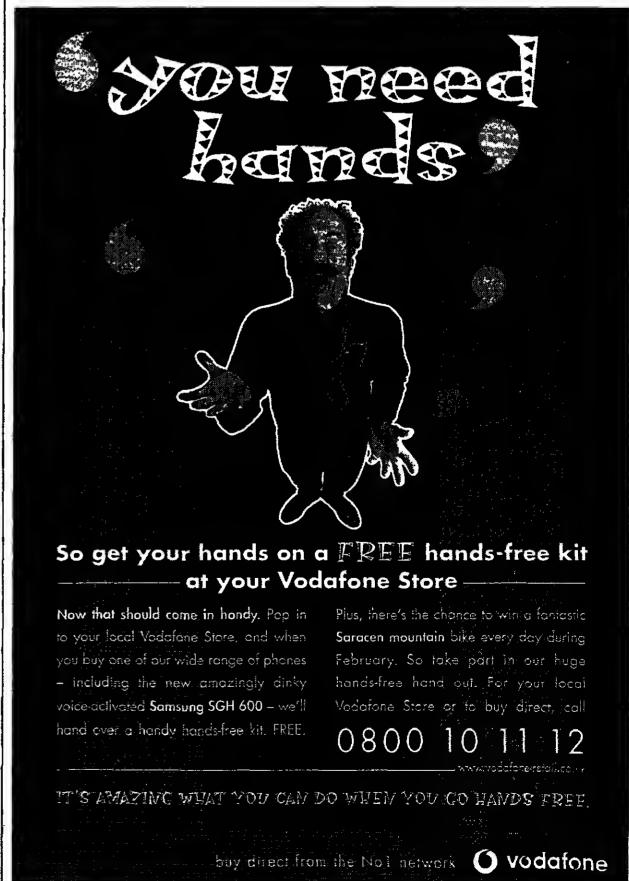
and athletic, and he was much loved.

"Nothing can compensate for the loss the family suffered in Stephen's death at the hands of violent racists on April 22. 1993. His legacy must be the root-andbranch change that has to take place in

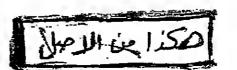
Sir William went on to record the words that had been chosen by Mrs Lawrence to

STEPHEN LAWRENCE will be remem- wanted to be an architect. He was healthy end her statement to the inquiry. Mrs Lawrence said: "I would like Stephen to be remembered as a young man who had a future.

> "He was well loved, and had he been given the chance to survive maybe he would have been the one to bridge the gap between black and white because he didn't distinguish between black or white. He saw people as people."



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found at his home. The CPS him and so did a magistrate in a private presecution. His father Clifford is a well-known ne "Norris factor" is said to slowing down and fudging of uspects, and in particular



was 17 when an armoury of onlyes was found at the home lamie. The case against him was thrown out although he was identified by Brooks. He selves on the Krays and colice film shows him appearing to be a sadistic and violent racks The Acourts and others lainly well known locally, bu

SUSPECTS



Warned about perjury at the inquiry over his evidence tenying he and other 'it was apparent that they were known to be pote lolent, and that the Acourt

against him failed. Police surveillance film also revea he was a fervent racist. Neither Gary Dobson's not Luke Knight's Interviews could be said to have advanced the secution case at all. Both of We have con suspects were then and certainly before that date intected and invaded by gross and revolting racism."

# Racism to blame for failed inquiry

THE "pernicious and persist-ent" institutional racism of the police force played a crucial part in the failure of the Stephen Lawrence investigation, the Macpherson report

suggests.
While the report makes clear that racial prejudice was not the only reason the investigation failed, it adds: "Upon all the facts we assert that the conclusion that racism played its part in this case is fully justified. Mere incompetence cannot itself account for the whole of the catalogue of failures, mistakes, misjudgments and lack of direction and control which bedevilled the Stephen Lawrence investigation.

The report criticises Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, for failing to admit that institutional racism existed in his force. In what is seen as an implicit question mark over Sir Paul's survival, it suggests that until chief officers are able to accept that racism exists it will never

There must be an unequivocal acceptance of the problem of institutional racism and its nature before it can be addressed, as it needs to be, in full partnership with members of the minority ethnic communities." the report says. "Any chief officer who feels unable to respond will find it difficult to work in harmony and co-operation with the community in the way that policing by

consent demands." The report claims that in his evidence. Sir Paul placed too much emphasis upon individu-

Report highlights prejudice and places question mark over Met chief's future, says Jill Sherman

practice and cautioned against the use of the term "institutional racism". He did not accept that unconscious or covert racism was evident in any area of the Lawrence investigation. He refused to accept this even when given examples of racism such as the patronising of Mr and Mrs Lawrence and the refusal to accept racist motivation by some officers. Sir Paul admitted only that

there could be racism in the police service but not that there was any. There is a 6 Conclusion small but signifi-

cant difference bethat racism tween acknowledging that such feaplayed its tures 'can' exist and acknowledg-ing that they 'do' part in the exist," said the case is fully Macpherson report. There is justified? thus a discernible difference

tween the approach of the Association of Chief Police Officers and other chief officers and the somewhat less positive approach of the commissioner," the report

But Sir William Macpherson of Cluny makes clear that not all police officers are racist and that institutional racism was prevalent in other areas. "Racism, institutional or othervise, is not the prerogative o

the police service. It is clear that other agencies including for example those dealing with housing and education also suffer from the disease," says the report.

"If racism is to be eradicated there must be specific and coordinated action both within the agencies themselves and by society at large, particularly through the educational system, from pre-primary school upwards," Sir William gives

his own definition of institutional racism as: "The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and profes-sional service to people because of their colour, cul-.ture, or ethnic origin, It can be seen or detected in procattitudes behaviour

which amount to

discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantages minority ethnic people." Sir William says that institu-tional racism, as he defined it. existed both in the Metropoli-

tan Police and in other police forces and other institutions countrywide. It was prevelant in four key areas, he says:

ly's treatment at the hospital. the initial reaction to the victim and witness Duwayne Brooks, the family liaison, the failure of many officers to recognise Stephen's murder as a purely "racially motivated" crime and the lack of urgency and commitment in some areas of the investigation.

The huge disparity in stop and search figures nation-wide, which points to a "clear core conclusion of racist stereotyping".

A significant under-reporting of racial incidents caused by a lack of confidence in po-lice and their perceived unwillingness to take these incidents seriously. "We find irresistible the conclusion that a core cause of under-reporting is the inadequate response of the police service which generates a lack of confidence in victims to report incidents."

The failure of police training. "Not a single officer questioned before us in 1998 had received any training of significance in racism awareness and race relations throughout the course of his or her ca-

Sir William makes the point that not all members of the police force are racist. "We hope and believe that the average police officer and average member of the public will accept that we do not suggest that all police officers are racist and will both understand and accept the distinction we draw between overt individual racism and the pernicious and persistent institutional racism



# Evil influence of suspect's father in crime underworld

Richard Ford and Stewart Tendler on claims of collusion, trial fixing and schooling of arrested men

very damaging". The report

says that the police suspected

rightly that Norris was in

touch with David and that he

might have "schooled" the

four suspects in connection

with their arrests and about in-

During the first investiga-tion of the Lawrence murder,

officers were aware that young

and impressionable witnesses

were holding back because

they were afraid of the Norris

family. The report says that

the first investigation team failed to seek Norris senior

and that positive Efforts

should have been made to re-

move his "malign influence".
"It is inexplicable that more

was not done until summer

1994 to arrest Clifford Norris."

QUESTIONS about corruption and collusion between some officers in the Lawrence case and the families of the prime suspects hung over the murder investigation. The allegations were made after the links between a detective and Clifford Norris, father of one of the suspects and a dominant figure in the South Lon-

don underworld. The "Norris factor" emerges at important points in the Macpherson report, including the claim that Norris, who is serving seven years on drugs charges, was involved in 'fixing" an earlier trial in which his son David was acquitted of a stabbing. It was later claimed that the Norris factor led to the slowing down of the Lawrence investigation to ensure that David Norris and the other suspects were protect-

ed during the initial inquiry. Norris senior, nicknamed Nozzer, has a fierce reputation in South London as a criminal who should not be crossed. After beginning with violent rob-beries, he moved into the drug business and flourished. He moved from south London to a large, secluded house in Chislehurst and appeared to have ready cash to by himself

bought a Porsche. The inquiry was told that before the Lawrence stabbing, David Norris, said to be the leader of the gang linked to the murder, was accused of stab-bing another man called Stacey Benefield with a sword. Michael Mansfield, QC, for the Lawrences, said that Clifford Norris engineered his son's acquittal.

The Macpherson report rules that "no collusion or corruption is proved to have infected the investigation of Stephen Lawrence's murder. But it adds that his presence in the background clearly raises much suspicion".

It says there was no evidence that any approach was made by Clifford Norris to any of the police officers investigating the Lawrence murder. "It would be most unfair and unjust to draw any conclusion against any of those officers in the absence of any indication or allegation that they have been involved or connected with Clifford Norris."

But the report says there was evidence of corruption or attempted corruption in the Benefield case. "The strong inference is that Clifford Norris was behind the corruption and that he was closely involved in trying to pervert the course of justice by bribing Stacey Benefield and another witness", the report stated.

It highlights the "evil influ-ence" of Clifford Norris during the second investigation into the Lawrence murder. He was on the run but senior officers suspected "his influence while at large was potentially



Clifford Norris: seven years for drugs offences

told that during the private prosecution of three Lawrence suspects at the Old Bailey in 1996, DC David Coles, one of the officers escorting Du-wayne Brooks, the key witness, was disciplined after being seen with Norris in a public house in South London. He had falsely recorded that he was at the Old Bailey trial. The report highlights Mr

Norris's involvement in the earlier Stacey Benefield case. In March 1993, before the Lawrence killing, Stacey Benefield was stabbed in the chest while walking in Eltham. He named David Norris as his attacker but he was not willing to give a statement or help police.

After the Lawrence murder, the police received information that David Norris and Neil and Jamie Acourt were responsible for the attack on Mr charged, Benefield and his friend were approached by a man who gave them £2,000 and said he wanted the case against Norris dropped. The two men believe that the man was Clifford Norris who said: This is how I sort people out,

not by shooting them' Norris stood trial at the Old Bailey. After the judge's summing up, but before the jury had been sent out, one of Norris's escorts was approached by the foreman and told the verdict would be not guilty.



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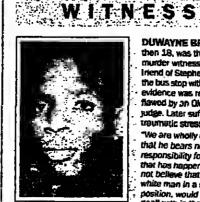


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SUSPECTS



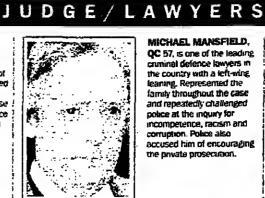
was 17 when he wa with two knives and a CS spray at his home. Acquitted in the private prosecution, although he gave police conflicting stories. There is now some doubt he took part in the attack. Others may have been directly or indirectly involved or able to give useful information. They needed to be thoroughly ated and eliminated, only since the group wa



then 18, was the main murder witness. A close Irlend of Stephen, he was a evidence was rejected as lawed by an Old Bailey judge. Later suffered post traumatic stress. We are wholly con that he bears no esponsibility for anything that has happened... We not believe that a young white man in a similar



SIR WILLIAM MACPHERSON 72. a former High Court judge, became chairman of the inquiry. He arighty refused calls from the Lawrence lamily to step down because of alleged insensitivity on race issues and proved a tough rquisitor to all sides.



MICHAEL MANSFIELD. QC 57, is one of the leading cruminal defence lawyers in the country with a left-wing leaning. Represented the family throughout the case and repeatedly challenged police at the industy for corruption. Police also accused him of encouraging ne onvate prosecution



Distraught

friend was

treated as a

stereotype

By Daniel McGrory and Richard Duce

DUWAYNE BROOKS, the

best friend of Stephen Law-

rence, who was with him

when he was attacked, was a

victim of "racial stereotyping"

by police on the night they investigated the stabbing.

at the scene, and those who lat-

er questioned him, for the way

they treated him. Mr Brooks

complained that he was made

to feel like a suspect. He felt the police assumed

there must have been a fight

before Stephen was stabbed.

and objected to officers asking

for his photograph which they

wanted to show to witnesses.

are driven to the conclusion

that Mr Brooks was stereo-

typed as a young, black man exhibiting unpleasant hostili-ty and agitation, who could

not be expected to help, and

whose condition and status

simply did not need further ex-

amination or understanding.

Brooks's colour and such ster-cotyping played their part in the collective failure of those

involved to treat him properly

young white man in a similar

position would have been

The report exonerates Mr Brooks from blame in the inci-

dent that led to the attack and

the failure of the court case.

Mr Brooks, then an 18-year-

dealt with in the same way.

"We do not betieve that a

and according to his needs.

We believe that Mr

The report concludes: "We

The report criticises officers

feisty reputation on police and ethnic police and ethnic cases. Called in as adviser to the family. "Overall there is no doubt but that Mr Khan has supported Mr & Mrs Lawrence and with vigour, Both ne and they have

old college student "was plainly fortunate to have es-

caped unharmed physically"

The report says that seeing his best friend killed and the way

he was treated by police has teft him traumatised, which is

why doctors said he should

not be called as a witness at

the inquiry.
Mr Brooks last night said

the only honourable course

for Sir Paul Condooe was to

resign, "When Mr Cundon

took up the job in 1991 he said

that he would eradicate rac-

"Today is 1999 and racism

is still here and has played a

big part in this case and in

many others. For Jack Straw

to say that Mr Condon should

Mr Brooks, now 24, and

working as an engineer, said

that while the Macpherson re-

port was flawed in some areas

he was relieved at the conclu-

sion that racism was institu-

tionalised within the police

friend Stephen, Racism also stopped officers from adminis-

tering first aid whilst he was

lying on the pavement. Rac-

ism also allowed the officers

investigating this case to treat

Police should not be al-

lowed to investigate them-

selves, he said. "As long as they do why should I and oth-

er black people trust them?"

me like a suspect."

"Racism killed my best

stay is totally wrong.

# Police work incompetent and biased

THE police investigation was riven by fundamental errors at every level and in every aspect, the inquiry concludes. Professional incompetence, institutionalised racism and a failure of leadership by senior officers was compounded by a flawed review which singular-ly failed to expose the inade-

By the time a second investigation was opened in 1994, the faults of the first investigation could not be remedied. "Only now at this inquiry have they been laid bare."

First aid
After Stephen was stabbed twice, he collapsed bleeding heavily from the wounds in his chest and shoulder. First on the scene was an off-duty police officer, PC James Geddis, who made sure an ambu-lance had been called. When PC Linda Bethel and PC Anthony Gleason arrived, they failed to check what Stephen's injuries were. "Nobody did anything whatsoever for Stephen Lawrence except the small amount of testing to see whether he was still breathing and whether his pulse was beat-

ing," the report said. The actions of Inspector Steven Groves, who was first in charge of the scene, were woefully inadequate. "He simply took it for granted that someone junior was appropriately in charge of Stephen."

Initial response The whole way the police responded to the crime in the critmal". Not a single officer made a log of what happened or of the crime scene, and the lack of organisation and control was astonishing.

Inspector Groves had under his control about 40 officers but no house-to-house searches were made of relevant addresses in the direction where the youths were seen to run. At the hospital

Stephen was pronounced dead at the hospital shortly after Ilpm. Inspector Ian Little met his parents there and was "grossly insensitive and un-sympathetic" to them. This was unwitting racism at

The first investigation Detective Superintendent Ian Crampton was the senior investigating officer for the first three days after the murder.

The report found that revealing detailed information about the five suspects reached him and his team in that time. A reliable informer who knew the suspects personally gave offic-

rangemenis."

"Institutional racism'

cial disadvantage and its nasty

associate racial discrimina-

tion, have not yet been elimi-

nated. They poison minds and

attitudes: they are, and so long

Michael Harvey

reports on the step-by-step analysis of how the murder

ers explicit details about the gang and their love of knives. There was no wall of silence. But Mr Crampton made a "vital and fundamental mistake" in failing to arrest the suspects

inquiry failed

quickly. Searches of the suspects' houses could have been made and vital chies recovered. Rigorous interviews of the teenagers in the immediate aftermath of the crime might have proved successful.

Detective superintendent Brain Weeden, who took over the inquiry, "perpetuated the wrong decisions made in the vital early days," Despite no real further developments, he arrested the suspects on May 7. The report concluded this was dictated mostly by "outside pressures", such as the highly publicised visit by Nel-

son Mandela. Det Insp Benjamin Bullock, the deputy senior investigating officer worked long hours but failed to process informa-

tion adequately. He failed to appreciate the Norris, father of the suspect David Norris and a muchfeared criminal in the Eltham area, or to follow up on witnesses who appeared to be intimidated.

The red Astra
Detectives failed to trace a red Vauxhall Astra seen twice on the night of the murder. The white youths in the car ap-peared to be laughing. By chance an officer saw the car again on April 30 and ques-tioned the occupants. It was an-

Surveillance The incompetence of a surveillance operation on the house where the Acourts lived left the inquiry members "aghast".

other week before anyone was

interviewed. The questioning

Before a camera could be set up, a young white man was seen leaving with clothing in a black bin liner. The investigating team were not told until the next day as the surveillance team had no means of communication with it.

Next day a police photographer took pictures of Jamie Acourt leaving with a bin liner full of clothes. Again no com-munication could be made or Mr Acourt intercepted, "This operation was ill-planned, badly carried out and inadequately documented."

Other failings Officers failed to eliminate associates of the five suspects and in particular omitted to hunt a sixth blond-haired suspect. Identity parades attended by Duwayne Brooks and other witnesses were mishan-

died badly. Searches of the suspects' houses were inadequate. Witnesses said that knives were hidden under floorboards. There is no evidence that a single floorboard was removed during any of the

Family liaison One of the saddest and most re-



Nobody did anything whatsoever for Stephen Lawrence except the small amount of testing to see whether he was still breathing?

Echoes of Scarman — but



the family liaison between the police and the Lawrences. Det Sgt John Bevan and Det Con Linda Holden did not achieve a good relationship with the family and Mr Bevan was not prepared to admir that the murder was purely a racist crime. The two officers treated the family in a cavalier and patronising way. When Mrs Lawrence handed a list of suspects to Det

Chief Supi William Isley, who had overall responsibility for the CID investigation, includ-ing family liaison, he folded up the piece of paper and put it in his pocket, giving the ap-pearance of dismissing the help offered.

grettable parts of the case was

The report concluded: "Inappropriate behaviour and patronising attitudes towards this black family were the product of unwitting racism at work."

The Barker review A review of the investigation in July 1993 under Det Chief Supt John Barker was an "indefensible" whitewash and factually inaccurate. Conclusions

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#### forces have made progress THE Macpherson report is eerily familiar. Just read Lord to be, a potent factor of Scarman's report on the Brixton disorders of 198t. This coo-The exercise has shown yet tained long passages about evi-dence of racial prejudice

again both the strengths and limitations of such judicial inquiries. Every time there is a among some police officers in disaster or outrageous killing, an area only a few miles from an inquiry is set up, usually where Stephen Lawrence was chaired by a distinguished murdered, and Macpherson refers back to the Scarman analysis several times. "It is judge. The discontents of the local community are poured out and the authorities concerned therefore essential that every possible step be taken to preare found wanting. The critivent and root out racially prejcisms and recomudiced attitudes in the police mendations are inservice. This can be done variably accepted. through careful checks in the by the Govern- RIDDEL recruitment of officers, through training, through sument. Everyone pervision and disciplinary ar-

says that lessons ON POLITICS have been learnt, legislation follows and the So has nothing changed? Of world is supposed to be a betcourse, both the circumstances and the conclusions of the two

Over the past two decades reports differ substantially. Indeed, Lord Scarman argued there have been judicial inquiries or tribunals on the King's does not exist in Britain: but ra-Cross Underground fire of November 1987, the Piper Alpha explosion of July 1988, the Clapham Junction rail accident of December 1988 and the Dunblane shooting of March

ports have led to changes: new safety regulations and rules for employees, and, in the case of Dunblane, far-reaching controls on the possession of

In the world of politics, the cash-for-questions affair led to the creation of the Nolan Com-mittee on Standards in Public Life which has changed the regulation and outside interests of MPs. The

volve everyday behaviour and attitudes. High-minded judges, politicians and senior police officers can deplore racially preju-behaviour. institute

training and new guidelines. but there is a big gap with day-to-day operations on the ground? Will the bitter pessimism expressed last night by Doreen Lawrence about the continuing threat to black boys on the streets be justified? The evidence from Scarman

and other reports into police

and race relations is that im-

- on, for instance, the training of police - while most senior police officers appear to be more racially sensitive. But this was clearly not enough either to change the behaviour of some more junior officers, as the Macpherson report makes clear, or to dispel the fears of many black people. Even in the years since the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the Metropolitan Police has done a lot to tackle racial prejudice, notably under impressive

Scarman's recommenda-

tions have been implemented

But the key issue is what has now become known as "canteen culture". Will the soulsearching result from the Macpherson report lead to a defensive reaction by the police, making the streets less safe for people of all races? The Scarman report warned of the danger of "slipping into an enclosed fortress of inward thinking and social isolation". That remains the main ques-

tion about the follow-up to the

officers like John Grieve.

Macpherson report.

before the murder and pledge to fight racism. He accepted a fatally flawed internal review o gestions that his force was The evidence of the doner in his openin



EX-DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DAVID OSLAND

officers in southeast London and ordered the review into the murder case, He also later advised officers to suc the Lawrences for libel and "He was much too ready to accept that things were going luring the course of the im

EX-DETECTIVE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT 51, carried out a review of the Investigation and rejected any estion it was below par. A the inquiry Sir William said that viow retired, he would otherwis it is apparent to us that tracides which he placed up investigation he produced a



54, was a veteran London westigation. He was accused by Mrs Lawren of screwing up a piece of paper with the names of aspects she gave to him te rethed in March 1995. There was in our opinion failure to supervise and I

maginatively this high



CRAMPTON 55, was in charge of the early arrests despite tip offs but told the inquiry informe "Mr Crampton says that he mede a 'strategical' decision not to arrest... This flawed sion as to arrest is

# The toughest verdict for a hard judge

WHEN Sir William Macpher-Frances Gibb son of Clurry was named as the chairman of the inquiry. the Lawrence family condemned him as the wrong man. The gritty, old-fashioned Scottish judge, a former lieu-tenant-colonel with the 21st SAS Territorials, was the very epitome of the establishment figure they did not want.

The family complained to the Home Secretary that the record of the former High Court judge with a hardline conservative reputation had dashed their confidence. They cited his past rulings: one in which he had held that a white parent could withdraw a child from a class with a large number of Asian children. even if her decision was motivated by racism. Another time he had argued that racial discrimination should not be tackled by the law but by "goodwill and good sense".

Sir William, 72, also had one of the worst records for refusing applications for judicial review challenges in such cases as immigration.

But despite their protests, alongside the three inquiry members appointed with him. with the Home Secretary's backing. Yesterday's report is a clear vindication of his appointment, on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor.

looks at the old-fashioned judge who has

proved his critics wrong

One senior judge commented: If you wanted a whitewash job, then Sir William is not the person you would have appointed." His critics completely underestimated the nature of the man, the way that slow to reach a view - he would expose himself over many months to evidence which, drip by drip, would change what might have been his natural inclinations.

His judicial colleagues knew better. They have always regarded him as as firm but' fair, a man "of the utmost integrity and probity". One senior judge said: "He will say it exactly as he finds it. Nothing

In the first instance, though, the attacks served to put him on notice. "It really laid down a marker," one lawyer said. "! think he was a bit rattled by all this criticism being thrown at him before the inquiry

opened." While none of this would have forced him into conclusions he otherwise would not have reached, it might have heightened his sensitivity to the issues. One barstrange if he had not been affected by that, and also by having most pressure groups and the race-relations industry. if you like, watching his every move, coupled with the attentions of the world media."

So in his handling of the inquiry. Sir William was even more determined to prove his evenhandedness. Finding himself under attack for a perceived inability to be impartial, he appeared to lean over backwards to be fair, more than fair, towards the Lawrence family - evident in his sympathetic treatment of Mrs Lawrence when under ques-

The result, said some observers, was that if anyone felt aggrieved at the end, it was the police, not the Lawrences.

ultra-establishment background gives some due as to why Sir William was rethe most u choice. A Scot who carved his legal career at the English legal profession, he was regarded as an excellent judge but in the old school and not - as one lawyer put it - "exactly up to date with racial awareness



Sir William arriving at Elephant and Castle for the inquiry. He was "not exactly up to date with racial awareness training", a lawyer said

Court judge in 1983 and was in-

volved in many high-profile

cases during 13 years on the

training". When he was piped out with bagpipes on the day he retired from the High gatt said he was "not famous for his lenient sentences".

The son of a brigadier, Sir William was educated at Wellington College and Trinity College, Oxford (interrupted by four years in the Scots

Guards). On the death of his father in 1969 he became 27th chief of the Macpherson clan. clusive Royal Company of Archers, a ceremonial guard

for the Queen in Scotland. The law was his second choice of career: he first tried unsuccessfully for the Diplo-matic Service. He was called to the Bar in 1952 and ten years later married Sheila Mc-Donald Brodie. They have two

sons and a daughter. He played rugby and also enjoyed parachuting into Denmark, Norway and France on TA exercises. In 1971 he took silk, then became a High

sure relatives were not in court for distressing evidence. And during the inquiry itself he appeared genuinely shocked at the catalogue of police incompetence as well as moved by the family's plight.

young girls. He sought to en-

Despite the cases raised by about the murder and referred the Lawrences, he has won to the recent vandalism of a memorial stone to the teenagplaudits from some victims for er as an "unspeakable act". sensitive handling. Five years ago at Newcastle Crown Court Nowadays he spends his rehe presided at the trial of Robert Black, accused of the kidnap and murder of three

tirement time at home in Scotland, the 16th century Newton Castle, Blairgowrie, and is said to have been grumpy on occasions at having to leave to travel back to London.

When the judge visited the

The strength of the findings are a reflection of his determination to give the inquiry his best shot. They also indicate an open-mindedness and read-

scene of Stephen Lawrence's the three other inquiry memdeath in March last year he bers who are believed to have been strongly influential in shaping the final report. But Sir William has not just toed the line. He goes along with their views. "He is not the sort of man just to grit his teeth and say something for the sake of it," one barrister said. "If he had not taken the findings on board, it would have gnawed at his being."

1. 1. 1. 1 × 1

iness to listen, particularly to

So, a tough verdict, in line with his hard-judge reputation, was always on the cards. one way or the other. It can claim to be his toughest ver-

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#### THE JUDGE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

These are the recommendations

☐ The report recommends that as a matter of ministerial priority, all police services must take steps "to increase trust and confidence in policing among minority

ethnic communities". The Home Office should set performance indicators. These would include strategies for the prevention, recording, investigation and prosecution of racist incidents; public satisfaction surveys to assess all ethnic groups; racism awareness training; policy directives governing stop and search procedures; levels of recruitment and retention of ethnic minority recruits: levels of racist behaviour

or attitude and their outcomes.

The overall aim would be "the elimination of racist prejudice and disadvantage and the demonstration of fairness in all aspects

☐ Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary (HMIC) should be given full powers to inspect all parts of police services. The Metropolitan Police Service should be inspected forthwith "in order to restore public confidence". An organisation similar to the schools inspectorate Ofsted. should be set up to inspect police services to improve standards

and quality through regular in-

spection, public reporting and independent advice. ☐ Greater links should be made with the local community by ensuring that the membership of local police authorities reflects the power to appoint all chief offic-

other police services. The HMIC should be empow ered to recruit and use lay inspectors to examine and inspect po-

where possible the local cultural and ethnic mix. The report also suggests that the Metropolitan Police Authority should be given ers of the Metropolitan Police Service in line with the powers of

lice services particularly in connection with performance in invesbgating racist crime.

☐ Investigating reports resulting from public complaints should

not attract public interest immuni-

ty and should be disclosed to

A Freedom of Information Act ed and reported to a senior officshould apply to all areas of policing and the race relations act should be extended. The full force of the Race Relations leafslation should apply to all police of-

Definition and reporting of a racist incident

☐ The definition should be: "A racist incident is any inciden which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person. The term should include crimes and non-crimes in police terms and be reported, recorded and in-

A code of practice should be established by the Home Office to create a system of reporting and recording all racist incidents — 24 hours a day and at locations other than police stations. There should be close co-operation with the police services and local govemment departments to ensure that all information on racist inci-

Police practice and the investigation of racist crime

dents is shared.

The Association of Chief Police Officers should devise codes of practice to govern reviews of investigation of crime, in order to ensure open and thorough reviews. These reviews could be done by external police services. ☐ Metropolitan Police Service procedures at the scene of incidents should be reviewed to ensure co-operation between uniformed and CID officers. The Met should ensure adequate recording and retention of information by individual officers and special

Family lieison, victims and witnesses

☐ The police services should ensure they have designated and trained family liaison officers. Training should include recism awareness and cultural diversity so that families are treated with respect. These officers should have a duty to provide the victim's family with all possible information about the crime and investigation. Any family requests not acceded to and any family com-

plaints should be formally record-

☐ The police services should develop with the Home Office guidelines on handling victims and witnesses, particularly in regard to racist incidents. The police services should also work with victim support services to help in the handling of sensitive witnesses.

Prosecution of raciet crimes ☐ The standard of proof should

remain unchanged. ☐ Police services and the Crown Prosecution Service should ensure that particular care is taken at all stages of prosecution to recognise and to include reference to any evidence of racist motivation. No "plea bargaining " should ever be allowed to exclude such

☐ The CPS should ensure that all decisions to discontinue a prose-cution should be recorded and disclosed to victim and family in

"Consideration should be given to amendment of the law to allow prosecution of offences of racist language or behaviour, and of offences involving the possession of offensive weapons, where such conduct can be proved to have taken place other than in public place".

☐ Victims or victims' families should be allowed to become "clyit parties" to criminal proceedings to ensure that they are provided with all relevent information. Consideration should be given to providing legal aid to victims and famdies to cover representation at an

Training

There should be an immediate review and revision of racism awareness training within police

☐ All police officers, including CID and civilian staff, should be trained in racism awareness and valuing cultural diversity. This should include practical experience in the field of racial awareness which should involve local minority ethnic communities. Training in racism awareness should also be extended to local government and other agencies including other sections of the criminal justice system.

ais to changes to the police disciplinary and complaints procedures should be fully implement-

☐ Police services should implement a code of conduct to ensure that racist words or acts "proved to have been done by officers should lead to disciplinary proceedings and that it should be understood that such conduct should usually merit dismissal". ☐ The Home Secretary should take steps to ensure that serious complaints against police officers are independently investigated. ☐ The Home Office should review and monitor the system and standards of police services applied to the selection and promotion of officers of the rank of inspector and above.

Stop and search

☐ The Home Secretary should ensure that police officers make a record of all stops and "stops and searches" made under any legislative provision. The records should include reason for the stop, the outcome, and the selfdefined ethnic identity of the person stopped. A copy of the record should be given to the person

Recruitment and retention

☐ The Home Secretary and potice authorities' policing plans should include targets for recruitment and progression of ethnic

> Prevention and the role of education

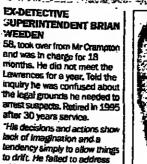
☐ Consideration should be given to amending the national curriculum aimed at preventing racial prejudice and fostering cultural di-

Local education authorities and school governors should ensure that schools record all racist incidents and that all recorded incidents are reported to the pupils' parents. The number of incidents should be published annually on a school-by-school basis. ☐ Ofsted inspections should

monitor these strategies.



#### THE LAWRENCE REPORT: POLICE



DETECTIVE INSPECTOR BEN BULLDCK command of the investigation. He faces sever charges of neglect of duty after deciding to halt his retirement plans and face a disciplinary hearing. "He failed to process property vital information ven to the team by James given to the team by James Grant. He was often passive

and not up to his job."



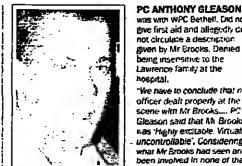
was in charge of a police unit Told the inquiry he thought Duwayne Brooks might be a "It is apparent to all of us that the direction and control exercises by Mr Groves 61 the scene was almost non-



WPC LINDA BETHEL was one of the first officers on the scene of the murder. h was atleged by Mr Brooks that she ignored informati he gave her and asked if he was carrying a weapon. Did not eive first aid to Stephen Lawrence.

racist stereotyping can

\*Mr Brooks was the victim of racist stereotyping... the evidence does show how

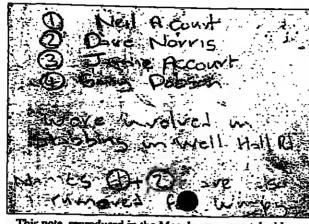


give first aid and allegathy did not circulate a description given by Mr Brooks, Denied being insensitive to the hospital. We have to conclude that no

was with WPC Bethelf, Did not

officer dealt properly at the scene with Mr Brocks.... PC Gleason said that Mi Brooks v.as 'Highly excitable. Virtually uncontrollable', Considering what Mr Brooks had seen and should have been surprising,

# Suspects 'the type to commit this crime'



This note, reproduced in the Macpherson report, had been placed on the windscreen of a police car after the murder

The five were found to be arrogant and dismissive towards the

inquiry, reports Michael Harvey

THE five young men suspected of Stephen Lawrence's murder were "the type of people who could have committed a crime of this type", the report concluded, but evidence had not emerged during the inquiry that proved their involvement.

The report based its conclusion on the appearance of the five before the inquiry and the video evidence, covertly obtained by police, of the gang displaying "violent racism at its worst". The report said: "The suspects were then and certainly before late 1994 infected and invaded by gross and revolting racism.

The press and public cannot be blamed for voicing the suspicions about them which are current and which will remain alive because nobody has been convicted of the brutal racist murder of Stephen

began a private prosecution for murder against the five. three of whom were acquitted at the Old Bailey the following year after the judge ruled certain evidence inadmissible; charges against the other two had already been dropped be-cause of insufficient evidence. The family had begun the pros-ecution after the Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence to support a case against two who

In his report, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny is scathing about the appearance of the five at the inquiry last June: 'To say that they gave evidence would be to dignify their appearance. They all relied upon alleged lack of mem-ory. They showed themselves to be arrogant and dismissive." he says.

had been charged in 1993.

pose that they be prosecuted for perjury, something which



Above: Schooldays at Crown Woods in Eltham; the school was attended by Gary Dobson, who was acquitted of murder, right, the video which. Sir William found, showed "revolting racism"

had been thought to be a possibility. "Our own judgment. supported by legal advice, is that such a prosecution should not be proposed by this in-quiry. Their evidence was evasive and vague but that does not mean it would be possible to prove that they were lying in the factual answers given.

"If the view of others differs from ours the matter can be reported to the police," the report added.

The central figures in the gang are Neil Acourt and his brother Jamie, and David Nor-. But the report did not proris. The Acourt brothers were aged 17 and 16 on the day of the murder, in 1993, and David Norris was also 16. Norris's father is Clifford Norris, a notorious South London criminal who was on the run in con-

nection with drug-dealing. The other two members of the gang are Gary Dobson, who was 17 at the time of the murder, and Luke Knight who

These five were the prime suspects and while other names have surfaced in the information reaching the police, these have been singled out.

Four of the youths lived on or near the Brook Estate near the scene of the crime, in Eltham, southeast London, while David Norris, who

knew the other four through school and family connections,

lived in Chislehurst, Kent. The Macpherson report says that the Acourts in particular modellled themselves on the Krays and were known for their racist hatred and love of knives. Various members of the gang had been involved in up to a dozen attacks and assaults in the months before the murder.

On the night of the murder, Dobson left his home, a short distance from Well Hall Road where Stephen was stabbed, at about 11.45pm. He called at the Acourts' house. One witness stated that he had seen the Acourts and David Norris

near the scene of the murder. The video camera covertly installed in a flat rented by Dobson in 1994 showed their sickening racist violence by did not add "one iota" to the evidence in respect of the murder charges.

Throughout the police investigation and at the inquest into Stephen's death the five suspects have given the barest minimum of help to police and the authorities. At the inquest in 1997 none of them gave any evidence; they claimed "privilege" on the grounds that they might incriminate themselves. At the Macpherson inquiry

the suspects all entered the wit- they did not have to answer ness box last June and anany direct questions about swered questions under oath or affirmation. They were their involvement in the murder, after going to the High forced to accept that numerous Court to try to avoid attending weapons had been found both the inactive at the Acourts' home and else-

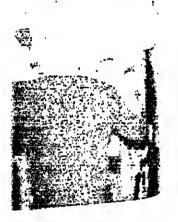
Metropol ain pilse s ventsurveillains video

found under some clothing in David Norris's bedroom. The report said that Dobson gave only a specious explanation when a large knife was re-covered from his girlfriend's bedroom. A sword found under cushions at the Acourts' house was said by them to be than this is proved against for decorative purposes.

where. A lethal hammerhead

suspended from a strap was

Befure the inquiry began Sir William had said that if evidence emerged that made it possible to indicate that the suspects were involved in the murder, the inquiry would not hesitate to do so. But the re-port concluded: "No such evidence has come before us. The situation remains as it was. These youths remain the five suspects, but nothing more



armin2 116-1161nwm2 Charles



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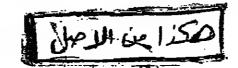
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# Both sides stick to their guns in Kosovo impasse

BY ANTHONY LOYD IN PRISTINA AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that the 17 days of talks on Kosovo without an agreement "has not ended in a fudge, because it has not ended".

But he insisted that the "great majority" of issues between the Serbs and Albanians were resolved at Rambouiller, and that the failure to reach complete agreement demonstrated the "extra mile" still to be travelled.

Mr Cook told Parliament that a "peace process" had been created and the end of the Rambouillet talks, near Paris, did not mean the end of the road. But he admitted that violent conflict was still going on, and warned both the Serbs and Kosovan Albanians that Nato remained ready to take

But there was no question of the allies providing ground troops without a clear commitment by both sides to a ceasefire. The Serbs and Albanians should use the next three weeks to build on the new agreement for peace, not to break down the existing cease-fire agreement, Mr Cook said.

"Neither side is going to end this conflict through military action," he said. "Neither side can gain from prolonging it." Yet, within hours of the clo-

sure of talks, both Serb and Albanian delegations sought to distance themselves from the provisional and unsigned accord, leaving the fate of Kosovo hanging in the balance of a mythical ceasefire for the next three weeks until the planned resumption of negotiations in France. President Milutinovic of Ser-

bia called Mr Cook's conclusions "a camouflage for fail-ure", while Hashim Thaci, a

ative at Rambouillei and head of the Kosovo Liberation Army's political directorate, emphasised that he "did not sign any kind of agreement and added: "I invite the people of Kosovo for unity and resist-ance, to strengthen the fight of the Kosovo Liberation Army."

If the Contact Group's carrot of proposed autonomy had failed to blunt the Albanians' appetite for full independence, then the stick of Nato with which the West hoped to coerce the Serbs was left idle. with the alliance's troops and equipment straddling ports from Germany to Greece; the deadline threat of airstrikes having been first delayed, then extended, and now apparently

Mr Cook would do well to remember his reference to "fudges" and his repeated ref-



Serb women in Bukos, 21 miles north of Pristina, grieve yesterday for Mirko Milosevic who was killed in front of his house three days ago

erence to a "red line" ceasefire agreement by which the Yugoslav security forces are supsed to have abided since October last year,

Then, in a deal signed by President Milosevic of Yugo-

slavia and Richard Holbrooke, the US special envoy. it was stipulated that all Serbian Army and police units were required to withdraw from Kosovo or return to barracks, or face Nato airstrikes,

A 2,000-strong Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe verification mission was sent into the province to monitor the Serbs' compliance with this deal, while Nato launched an air operation in a

similar task. But, in the ensuing period, both the Serb security forces and the KLA, who never officially signed up to anything, have consistently ignored the October agreement while the West has sat back and "fudged" its own accountability to the deal.

Meanwhile, 50,000 more civilians have been forced by fighting to flee their homes since December 24, more than two months after the Holbrooke-Milosevic accord. Ab-ductions and attacks continue throughout on a daily basis.
As the talks in France ended

on Tuesday, Javier Solana, the Secretary-General of Nato, repeated calls for both sides to respect the ceasefire and refrain from all provocations". In Brussels, a Nato official

said the alliance was "totally ready to respond to any deteriorating situation in Kosovo which would mark the return to massive, all-out violence".

But William Walker, head of the OSCE verification mission in Pristina, said: "The ceasefire is a bit of a joke. Both sides are going out of their way to engage the other side, and that invites a comeback. It's almost easier to list places where they are in compliance

Vint con

 it's a short list."
 □ Pristina: Setting aside deep mistrust that has hampered their efforts to press for independence, the KLA and the pacifist Albanian factions yesterday announced that they would form a coalition provisional government to pursue their goal. (AP)

### Louvre is easier to rob than a store'

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

OFFICIALS at the Louvre have admitted that security at the museum is so poor that it would be easier for a thief to steal one of its 32,000 exhibits than it would be to take an

item from a department store.
The admission came as independent security experts delivered a damning report, criticising the lack of anti-theft controls at the museum and advising that the Louvre needs to spend Fr150 million (£15 milspend Priso million (ElS million) to bring its security up to standard. The 300-page document was commissioned by the Louvre's director, Pierre Rosenberg, last June.

Its findings have increased speculation that the misseum will be forced to raise its entry.

will be forced to raise its entry price to help to pay for the addi-tional controls.

The investigation into security was triggered by the theft last May of a valuable paint-ing by the 19th-century artist Camille Corot. Despite 900 security cameras and the presence of more than 200 guards, the thief succeeded in stealing Le Chemin de Sevres on a busy Sunday afternoon while hundreds of visitors were touring the museum, leaving be-hind the frame and the glass

protection plate. The painting, which was in-sured for Fr8 million, is 13in, by 19in, and small enough to be slipped into a bag or large coat. Investigators continue to monitor sales at Sotheby's and Christie's but say they have virtually given up hope of recovering the painting. The task of safeguarding the thousands of exhibits displayed in 400 galleries and visited by six million people each year is not lion people each year is not eased by the layout of the

800-year-old buildings. The space is extremely difficuit to guard, because the Louvre is a former royal palace and was not designed as a mu-seum. One of the main problems is that there are so many nooks and crannies," said Christophe Monin, its communications director.

While François Mitterrand's Fr6 billion project to restore and expand the Louvre has given Paris I.M. Pei's celebrated steel-and-glass pyra-mid and doubled the muse-um's exhibition space, the crea-tion of a co-ordinated security system seems to have slipped through the planners' net.

Experts devising the new security plans for the Louvre are working on an anti-theft device, similar to those used in supermarkets and department stores, which would set off an alarm as soon as an exhibit



A Berlin victim and one of his mourners

### 10,000 **Kurds** march in Berlin

FROM TONY PATERSON IN BERLIN AND RICHARD OWEN IN ISTANBUL

MORE than 10,000 Kurds held a funeral march in the centre of Berlin yesterday to mourn three activists shot dead by Israeli security guards on Wednesday last week during violent protests over the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK)

The four-hour procession was led by hearses bearing the bodies of the Kurds, killed while trying to storm the city's Israeli Consulate.

Fears of renewed violence prompted German police to mount a 3,500-strong guard, but they were involved only in brief scuffles after a group of Kurds attempted to storm a building occupied by Turks who had pelted the procession with objects from an upstairs window. Police had earlier arrested 47 protesters caught taking iron bars and clubs to the march.

Germany's Federal Prosecutors' Office disclosed yesterday that it was considering reclassifying the PKK as a "terrorist organisa-tion", a measure that would make surveillance easier. The organisation, already banned, is estimated to have 50,000 sympathisers in Germany alone. Meanwhile, Turkish offi-

cials said that "preliminary legal proceedings" had be-gun in the trial of Mr Oca-lan after Tuesday's hearing, when he was formally charged with treason.

Athens: Greece has put its defence forces on high alert after Turkish statements denouncing it for sheltering Mr Ocalan at its Nairobi embassy. (Reuters)





Starr: both parties unhappy with post

### Starr statute under review

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CONGRESS began debating yesterday whether it ever wants to see the likes of Kenneth Starr again. Hearings opened into whether the statute that en-

abled Mr Starr to recommend President Clinton's impeachment should be revised or scrapped when its term expires on June 30. The law was passed 21 years ago to prevent any repetition of Richard Nixon's infamous action when he sacked the Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox.

But the law has bal-looned, giving independ-ent prosecutors unlimited authority. Both parties have suffered. Republicans were scarred by Lawrence Walsh's six-year inoniry into the Reagan-era Iran-Contra scandal at a cost of \$48 million (£30 million). Democrats are angry that Mr Starr's inquiries are continuing after nearly five years and a bill approaching \$50 million.

# US television airs Clinton 'rape' interview

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS were fast night finally being given the chance to see and hear the woman who has accused President Clinton of raping her in a hotel room more than 20 years ago. NBC television decided to air an explosive interview it

has been sitting on for some weeks after the accusation, which has been circulating for years, was published in newspapers which had also been agonising over whether to run it.

Juanita Broaddrick, the own-er of an Arkansas nursing home, has given a graphic ac-count alleging that Mr Clinton assaulted her after inviting himself into her hotel room. After a brief conversation, she claims, he forced her to

have sexual intercourse and as he left told her to put some ice on her lip because he had bit it so hard it was swelling badly. The incident was alleged to have occurred in 1978, when Mr Clinton was Attorney-General in Arkansas and running for the governorship.

The story first emerged dur-ing Mr Clinton's 1992 campaign but was not reported by

any major news organisation. Mrs Broaddrick, 55, denied any such encounter in an affi-The New York Times, which davit for the Paula Jones sexual harassment case and re-

fused to speak last year when it emerged that Mrs Jones's lawyers had approached her. She has since said that she had not wanted to get dragged into the case against the President. Kenneth Starr's investigators spoke to her but decided that her claims did not help his case that Mr Clinton had

obstructed justice. Eventually, however, she gave an interview more than a month ago to NBC. But as the network dragged its heels over showing it she became frustrated and told the story to The Wall Street Journal, a dogged enemy of Mr Clinton, which printed her allegations on its

opinion pages.

The Times and other British papers as well as a few American publications carried accounts of the Journal report. The Washington Post admit-ted that it had had the story for some time but said that its in-

record and could not be used until Mrs Broaddrick went

ran the story yesterday, said that in 1992 it had originally regarded it as "the kind of toxic waste traditionally dumped just before election day". American papers have for the most part avoided the word "rape". David Kendall, the Presi-

dent's personal lawyer, has de-Mrs Broaddrick's account. "Any allegation that the President assaulted Mrs Broaddrick more than 20 years ago is absolutely false." he said. "Beyond that, we are not going to comment."

Mrs Broaddrick told The

New York Times yesterday that she had felt unable 10 bring a charge against Mr Clinton. "Even though I was a respected businesswoman, what was I doing in a hotel room with the Attorney-General? No. I never even considered coming forward."

Despite the sensational accusation, it seems unlikely to cause Mr Clinton any serious



# Mad cow ban leaves Spanish matadors short of bulls

FROM GILES TREMLETT

IN MADRID

A BAN on fighting bulls infected with BSE being exported from Portugal has left Spain's toreros short of quality animals to kill this season. Bulls raised on the grasslands of Portugal have long been a staple diet

of the Spanish corrida. Nearly half the 1,500 bulls killed in Spanish bullrings last year came from Portugal.

But now Portugal's bulls are sus-pected of carrying bovine spongiform encephalopathy or mad cow disease. The European Union has banned the export of Portuguese cattle, including fighting bulls, until August at least."

Brussels has refused to bend to pleas from Portuguese breeders, many of them aristocratic owners of large estates, that fighting bulls be made an exception.

The problem for the breeders is that the meat of a fighting bull is considered a delicacy in Spain. A team of butchers dressed in blood-spattered

while coats is present in the wings of most of the country's major builtings. Minutes after a defeated bull has been dragged out of the ring it is skinned and butchered. Sides of beef, piles of tripe and other cuts are dispatched to shops and restaurants.

help to build weight. Some butchers' shops, such as the the nine-month ban will cost them Carniceria Aguirre near Madrid's

Las Ventas bullring, even specialise in the meat of fighong bulls. Fighting bulls live freely for most of their lives and receive a diet of cere-als and forage in their final months to

Portugal's bull breeders claim that more than El million.

### **Britain** weighs army role in **Africa**

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

A BRITISH aid package is expected to be agreed with Sierra Leone which could include sending instructors to train a new army for the country.

After a meeting in Freetown this week between a five-man delegation from Britain's Joint Rapid Deployment Force and Ecomog, the Nigerian-led West African intervention force in Sierra Leone, ministers are to review a series of

recommendations for provid-ing military and civilian aid. The Brirish delegation was headed by Brigadier David Richards, commander of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force. He visited Sierra Leone a few weeks ago to make a preliminary assessment for ministers. The British team also consulted with the Sierra Leone defence force headquarters.

A spokesman for the For-eign Office confirmed yesterday that a British military team had been in Freetown this week and that a package of measures was to be considered. He said one option was to provide military assistance in developing an army in Sierra Leone. Brigadier Rich-

ards and his learn are due back in London today. President Kabbah, who was restored to power last year after being overthrown by renegade soldiers, dissolved the army. Ecomog troops are still

fighting the rebels.

Monrovia: Liberia accused a Briton, Richard Ratcliffe, and a Sierra Leonean of being mercenaries and ordered their deportation. They were linked to a Sierra Leone envoy. (AFP)

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FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

Yossi Beilin, a leading candidate for the main opposition Labour

Party in the May general election.

called on Moshe Arens, the new Defence Minister, to pull troops out of Lebanon immediately and to

regroup along Israel's northern

Before attending yesterday's fu-neral, Mr Arens renerated his op-

position to any such move.

The pull-out campaign, likened

to the movement to end the Viet-

nam War seen in the United

States, received a significant boost

yesterday in a rare front-page leas-ding article by Maariv, the second

oiggest-selling Israeli newspaper. Under the heading Thirty

Years War", Yaakov Erez, the edi-

tor-in-chief, voiced the desperation

felt by many when he wrote: "We

# Israel told to quit Lebanon

Claude and Tziona Balhasan grieve for their son, Eitan, at his funeral yesterday

CALLS for Israel to pull out from

occupied south Lebanon have reached an emotional climax following this week's killing of three elite paratroop officers, bringing the number of Israeli deaths to 925 since troops crossed the border northwards in 1978.

Israel Radio reported last night that a new voluntary helpline for parents of soldiers serving in Lebanon had been inundated with calls since being opened a few days ago. Gratzia Carmon, a psychologist helping to run the service, said that

the main problem facing callers was the inability to sleep and the fear of a visit from the army to report the loss of a loved one. Leading the calls for Israel to abandon the nine-mile-wide buffer zone, which it has held since the

rest of its troops pulled back in 1985, was Claude Balhasan, the father of a 30-year-old paratroop commander killed in the early hours of Tuesday when he led his troops into an apparent ambush by Hezbollah. the Iranian-backed militia.

'I do not know what the Israel Defence Forces can do in Lebanon or what our soldiers are looking for especially outside the security zone [where the fatal firefight took place]," said the father of Major Eitan Balhasan, who was buried yesterday in the Galilee.

Speaking in the immediate after-

math of the incident, the worst sufhave been fighting in Lebanon for 30 years now. Thirty years of raids beyond the border far into terrorist fered by Israeli troops since 12 naval commandos were killed in a territory. And almost nothing has changed. Once it was Palestinians similar ambush in 1997, Mr Balsimilar amousn in 1997, wir par-hasan added: "Today I lost a son. The people of Israel lost an out-standing commander. Tomorrow, it could be someone else. It is a we fought, today it is Hezbollah fighters.

"We have achieved nothing, we have not brought calm to the northwaste of time. We must get out of ern border, which at one time, 30 years ago, we used to call the quiet The deaths and the five injuries in the same gun battle just north of the buffer zone in which all the Hezborder. The reconnaissance unit commanders of then are now rebollah fighters escaped has revived tired generals, the fighters of that the long-standing argument over a possible unilateral withdrawal. time are sons of fighters from the

Sixties and Seventies."

But the difficulties that will face whatever government wins the election were highlighted when Syria's official press poured scorn on a call by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, urging Damas-cus to stop attacks by Hezbollah on Israeli troops in south Lebanon.

The Tishrin daily, the mouthpiece of President Assad of Syria, claimed that fighting the Israeli occupation was "a legitimate action", and advised Mr Netanyahu to withdraw his forces "to ensure real security for Israel".

Syria. the main power broker in Lebanon with some 35,000 troops, will not submit to occupation and will use all its resources to liberate" the Golan Heights, occupied by Is-rael since 1967, as well as south Lebanon, it said.



A child watches from behind barbed wire enclosing his home village of Arnoun, which was fenced off by Israeli troops because of suspected Hezbollah activity

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# US foils spate of Bin Laden bomb attacks

OSAMA BIN LADEN, the world's most wanted terrorist, bas been folled in at least seven attempted attacks on American outposts around the world since his involvement in bombing two US embassies in East Africa six months ago, according to Washington

officials yesterday.

The thwarted vehicle bombings were plotted against six American embassies and the remote Prince Sultan Air. Force Base in Saudi Arabia from which US aircraft patrol Iraq's southern no-fly zone.

were in Albania, Azerbaijan, Ivory Coast, Tajikistan, Uganda and Uruguay. These emhassies were chosen because they were housed in old build-ings lacking modern security. according to USA Today.

Dozens of suspected bombers have been arrested. Until now, the US Government has said only that it prevented further attacks on two unnamed embassies, following the destruction of those in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam last Au-gust with the loss of nearly 240 lives.

Yesterday a senior adminis-tration official confirmed that bin Laden had been prevented from further attacks on US facilities around the world "thanks to a combination of good intelligence and interna-tional co-operation".



Bin Laden: \$5 million reward for his capture

Global terrorist was thwarted by phone tapping, writes Ian Brodie

in Washington

Bin Laden has been charged with the East African bombings in a US federal indictment. The US has offered a record reward of \$5 million George Tenet, the CIA direc-

tor, told Congress: "There is not the stightest doubt that bin Laden and his worldwide allies ... are planning further attacks against us." American spy satellites tap-ping into bin Laden's phone

calls from his hideout in Afghanistan were able to pick up details of the planned raids in time to prevent them. Police arrested 20 suspects in Uganda last September. Last month, seven Afghans

with Italian passports were picked up in Malaysia. An Egyptian couple and a Jordanian were stopped on the border between Uruguay and Brazil. The list of arrests shows the global spread of the hunt for bin Laden's allies. Now there is a question

mark over his precise whereabouts. Two weeks ago the Taleban Islamic fundamental ists who rule most of Afghanistan reported: "Our guest has gone missing. We did not or-der him to leave and we do not know where be has gone." It is thought that he has left his camp and has moved north to a more remote region that may be in the hands of anti-Taleban rebels.

LINKS

glous/africa/kenya\_tanzania html — US State Department repor on the Kenyan and Tanzanian er sy bombings.

http://www.lct.org.ii/article bla-laidh.htm — The Internatio Policy Institute for Counter-Terroris

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# France's prestige warship all at sea

THE Charles de Gaulle, France's most sophisticated warship, is to remain in dry dock indefinitely it has been announced, after being forced to cancel sea trials four years later than originally planned because of technical problems.

The Fr19 billion (£1.9 billion) nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, which took ten years to build and was designed to be the flagship of the French Navy, is rapidly turning into a national embarrassment.

It was scheduled to enter operational service at the end of next year after construction delays of four years due to budgetary problems and contamination lears, which last November led to further insulation of its two reactors.

Naval faces were particular ly red after the world's press was invited to see the carrier embark on a ten-day maiden

voyage in the Atlantic last month to test its nuclear engines and stability. The exercise was postponed, however, because of 50mph winds. The effects of high winds on the hull are unknown and a navy spokesman said: "We cannot afford to take the slightest risk as the Charles de Gaulle has never been tested in this type of manoeuvre."

A second attempt a few days later saw the carrier forced to limp back into port within hours after one of its engines caught fire. More than three weeks later, technicians admit that they still do not know why the engines are not working normally. "It seems to be something to do with the ball bear-ings," an official said vaguely.

The ship, the world's most expensive floating airfield, can carry up to 40 planes and was built to replace the Foch.

# Ghost voters haunt Nigeria democracy

DETERMINED to fix the election in his ward, but unable to decide for whom, the returning officer in Ward Seven, Port Harcourt, registered a 100 per cent rurnout, then assigned 250 ghost votes to the All Peo-ples' Party and 250 to their rivals, the People's Democrat-

That, said one international observer, was a sure sign that Nigerians were getting a free and fair chance to rig their own elections.

But the incident during parliamentary elections last weekend goes to the heart of what Nigerians despairingly call "the Nigerian syndrome" — a determination to be corrupt. whatever the outcome. "We are suffering a national dis-ease which has infected us all. Following an example set by our leaders over decades, we despise those who play by the rules. Ministers who do not steal from their own departments are seen as fools," said Sola Akinyede, a leading Lagos lawver.

Next weekend 40 million vot-

70

11

Even as an African giant tries to rid itself of military rule, corruption endures, writes Sam Kiley in Abuja

capital, proved a vast slush fund for officers and their cro-

nies, who took kickbacks on

contracts to build government buildings, including a new

maritime department several

hundred miles from the sea.

then overestimated the costs

Both Olu Falae, the APP can-

didate for the presidency, and

General Olusegun Obasanjo, the PDP candidate who is ex-

pected to win, have pledged to

stamp out "419" and end the

international perception that

Nigeria is synonymous with corruption. But ordinary Nige-

rians have little faith in either

"I've given half a million dol-

man's ability to do so.

and pocketed the difference.

ers will go to the polls in presi-dential elections and attempt to end the military rule which has controlled Nigeria for all but ten years of more than three decades since independence. Dictatorship has ena-bled successive cabals of officers, and their civilian conspira-

tors, to armass fortunes. The Government estimates that under the unlamented regime of the late Sani Abacha his family were able to cream off up to £1.25 billion from con-tracts to import refined petroleum. Although the world's largest producer of sixth crude. Nigeria's own refineries were deliberately run down and unable to produce anywhere near local demands.

lars to Obasanjo, half a mil-lion to Falae, and another half There is no walk of life untouched by "419", as theft is a million to fund the election labelled in the Nigerian penal campaigns of both parties. code. Abuja, the country's new This is all just a farce - it's

prominent Washington-based Nigerian businessman. "I don't give a damn who wins. I'm just making these donations to ensure that we can all carry on as usual," he said as General Obasanjo addressed

a fundraising dinner here. While party coffers have been filled by others interested in a continuation of the status quo, the nation's coffers are so bare there are plans to sell off the state's shares in joint ventures with oil companies, construction firms and import-export enterprises.

"We hope that we can raise some money to put our hospi-tals back into accon and educate our people, while reducing the abilities of government officials, ministers and army officers to plunder the resources of the country," a leading member of the PDP said. But, he added, it would take

"more than 100 years" to heal the damaged ethics of a nation which is no longer able to resist a dodgy deal, even if there are no winners.



Olusegun Obasanjo, front-runner for the presidency, addresses a crowd yesterday

### **Briton** jailed for beating children

Singapore: A British woman living here has been jailed for four months for beating her two adopted children with a bamboo stick. The injuries were noticed by a teacher the next day.

Audrey Price. 3ú. admitted battering her son len and daughter, six, for lying. The Straits Times said.

The children, who were her nephew and niece, were placed in the care of the Community Development

Price was said to have taken the children to the girl's bed-room on October 28, ordered them to hold on to a hunk bed and then beaten them with their pants down. At one point the boy had been lied to the bunk's ladder.

A hospital found bruises. welts and scars on the children's buttocks and on the

backs of their thighs. Price, who lives with her husband, pleaded for leniency saying that she had sent the children for counselling and had sought police advice over their stealing and lying.

#### **WORLD IN BRIEF**

### Chinese mid-air explosion kills 64

Beijing: A China Southwest Airlines plane exploded in mid-air near the eastern city of Wenzhou, killing all 64 people on board, officials said. The Tupolev-154 was flying from Chengdu in the southwestern province of Sichuan to Wenzhou, and was carrying 51 passengers and 13 crew, an official said.

The plane exploded in a huge fireball as it came in to land. The latest in a string of Asian crashes, it was the worst aviation disaster in China circum line 1004 Witnesser in the small township of

ter in China since June 1994. Witnesses in the small township of Gexia, 15 miles south-west of Wenzhou airport, said body parts had been scattered over a large area of countryside. No details were immediately available on the nationality of passengers. Investigators were flying to the scene. (AFP)

#### Death row delay

Florence, Arizona: A US appeals court stayed the execution of a German citizen who fatally stabbed a bank manager in 1982. It said that executing Karl LaGrand in the gas chamber is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual. LaGrand specifically chose lethal gas over injection, hoping the court would make such a ruling. Arizona inmates sentenced to death before 1992 are given a choice between lethal gas and injection. The state was yesterday appealing to the US Supreme Court to overturn the stay. (AP)

### Venice gas plan halted

Rome: A plan to exploit natural gas reserves in the Adriatic Sea close to Venice has been rejected for the time being (John Philips writes). Officials said Edo Ronchi, the Environment Minister, decided that mining could cause the canal city to sink. A risk study said exploitation of the methane reserves could cause subsidence of the sea bed and affect Venice. But the ministry did not close the door entirely on exploitation, inviting the energy concern. Agip, to present further studies on the environmental implications.

### Ethiopia tank battle



Asmara: Eritrean soldiers guarding the border with Ethiopia near Assab where heavy fighting between the two countries' forces continued. Eritrea said it destroyed 31 Ethiopian tanks and shot down a helicopter during clashes in the disputed border region of Badme, the western front of the border war. Yermane Gebremeskel, a government spokesman, said that fighting was continuing late in the afternoon on the second day of an Ethiopian ground offensive. (Reuters)

#### Harare tycoon dies

Harare: Roger Boka, a leading black empowerment campaigner in Zimbabwe whose bank collapsed last year amid questionable practices, has died aged 54. He died on board a private jet on Sunday as it approached Harare airport, his family said. He was re-turning from the US where he had sought medical treatment for an illness, according to his daughter. Newspapers reported he was suffering from a chest infection and Kaposi's sarcoma, medical conditions often linked to Aids. (AP)

#### Mauritius hit by riots

Port Louis: President Uteem of Mauritius threatened to clamp a curiew on the Indian Ocean holiday island after three people curfew on the Indian Ocean holiday island after three people were killed in three days of riots sparked by the suspicious death of Kaya, a popular reggae singer, in police custody. Mr Uteem promised a judicial inquiry. Kaya was arrested last week after smoking marijuana at a rally organised by the political Republican Movement to press for legalisation of the drug. A coroner's report gave the cause of death as a skull fracture. (AFP)

#### Arsonist's satanic spree

Indianapolis: An Indiana man has allegedly admitted setting fire to as many as 50 churches in 11 states, and claims he began his spree with two others who helped him burn a church in a sanis spree with two others who helped thin burn a charlet in a satanic ritual. Jay Ballinger, 36, of Indiana, was arrested after going to hospital with bad burns. Two others were charged over one fire: Angela Wood, 24, of Atlanta, Mr Ballinger's girlfriend, and Donald Puckett, 37, of Lebanon, Indiana. (AP)

#### Gay envoy presented

W 626

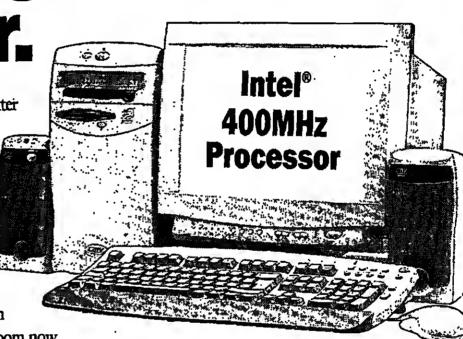
Copenhagen: Australia's new Ambassador to Denmark, Stephen Brady, has presented his partner. Peter Stevens, to Queen Margrethe, the Danish tabloid Extra Bladet reported. It was the first time an ambassador has introduced his homosexual was the trist time an ambassactor has the control has no message partner to the royal family. In 1989, Denmark became the first country to allow civil marriages between homosexuals. (AFP)

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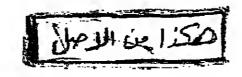
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# Voyage of discovery in the white wilderness

Andrea Barrett's new novel, a gripping historical account of physical and emotional duress in the Arctic, is likely to be one of the year's most celebrated books. Interview by Erica Wagner

M'Clintock of the steam yacht Fox found a small stone cairn on the northwest coast of King William Island, high in the Canadian Arctic. Hidden inside was a slip of paper, the last entry on

April 25, 1848 — HM ships Terror and Erebus were deserted on April 22, five leagues N.N.W. of this having been beset since September 12, 1846. The officers and crews. consisting of 105 souls, under the command of Captain FRM Crozier, landed here in lat 69deg. 98min. 41sec. W. Sir John Franklin died on June 11, 1847; and the total loss by deaths in the expedition has been, to this date, nine officers and 15 men. [Signed] F.R.M. Crozier, captain

and senior officer.
James Fitzjames,
captain of HMS
Erebus. And start ice and tomorrow, 26th, for Back's Fish River. Sir John Franksnow and lin set out in 1845 with the Erebus cold; I and Terror to find the Northwest Passage. With him sailed 134 men: hate the returned. heat Men and ships van-

ished into the frothe years that followed, 40 vessels were sent to search for the lost expedition. Very little, if anything, was ever found of Franklin and his men; the explorer entered polar mythology as one of the first heroic casualties of the battle to conquer what were perceived, at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, as the last places on Earth.

Yet what fascinated those long-gone travellers about that white wilderness fascinates still. The British Film Institute's screening of a restored print of film taken on Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914-16 expedition to the Antarctic was the best-attended restoration in the BFI's history: all those who crowded in to see Shackleton's ship, Discovery, crushed by the polar ice should eagerly snatch up Andrea Barrett's novel The Voyage of the Narwhal, to be published on

March I by HarperCollins. Barrett, a tall, softly spoken American in her mid-forties with a mane of curly grey hair

the National Book Award in 1996 for her collection of short stories with a scientific bent, Ship Fever. The riveting Narwhal takes up where that book, and Sir John Franklin,

Set in the 1850s, The Voyage of the Narwhal compellingly combines physical and intellectual endeavour. It follows Erasmus Darwin Wells, a middle-aged naturalist, in his attempt to jump-start his life by shipping out with Zeke Voorhees, a young man recklessly commanding an expedi-tion in search of Franklin. In spare, crystalline prose. Barrett conjures the wilderness both within and without her characters, and pulls the reader headlong on a fascinating. horrifying journey.

dow of the Manhattan apartment where we spoke, flat winter light made the Hudson River shine silver as it flowed down from the north. Barrett, who lives with her husband, a biologist, in Rochester, New York, looked out at the water as she told me what had drawn her to

lore. "I grew up on Cape Cod." she says. "Something about the ocean, the water's edge, is arctic in feel: sea and sky and endless merging. I've also skied since I was tiny - my father was a ski racer and he wanted me to be one; later, he was a ski patrolman and my mother told me that he would carry me down the mountains in a backpack before I could walk. I love the ice and snow and cold; I hate the heat."

Barrett began not as a novel-ist but, like many of her characters, as a scientist. She abandoned this path when she realised, belatedly, that science at least in its 20th-century form - was not what she was cut out for.

"It wasn't until I got into graduate school that I realised I am incapable of constructing an experiment, and that constructing experiments is the nature of being an independent scientist. What I had understood to be science was, in fact, the history and philosophy of science. What I have is a

nation for the fascination; an obsession with the obsession. It took me a great many years to see that what I mistook for my own obsessions were, in fact, other people's. It's not

Barrett longed to be what, in the previous century. was called a naturalist: her passion for the physical world around her is undimmed, and this fuels The Voyage of the Narwhal. She captures a sense of real discovery, able to have been like to see what had never been painted or photo-graphed, when the only way of conveying information about these distant, frozen places was by pencil lines or words.

The Narwhal soon becomes imprisoned in the closing pack ice; the men must try to free her by main force. "It was like a single long nightmare." Bar-rett writes, "in which time passed too quickly and then, especially when they were bent to the capstan bars, refused to pass at all. The continuous light made things worse. not better: white, white, white tinged with blue, with gold, with green; white, more white.

and as the sun looped around the the morning, then south, then west, then finally in the north at night, with them still working, horribly sunburnt, they began to yearn for the colours they never saw; sweet, rich reds, the green of leaves. In their blurry sleepless state, with their bodies strained and aching. Erasmus wasn't surprised that they should lose sight of what brought them there. It was all the crew could do to keep the boat moving and out of danger."

Although Barrett abandoned formal science, she never lost her love of research. All her books — Narwhal is her fifth novel, though the first to be published in Britain — are firmly grounded in her read-ing and her travels, whether they are set in the past or the

To Barrett, researching the past rather than the present means simply reading "a dif-ferent set of books". "As the have continued to evolve. they have become more divorced from elements



Andrea Barrett: "I went to where the Inuit hunt, watching the sun go round in the sky and getting an experience of the weather, the stillness, the light'

of my lived life in all aspects. so there is more research and it takes more time, but the nature of the process is not qualitatively different. The contemporary is, I suppose, easier to write: if I am going to write a historical story. I have to di-gest all this stuff. A dear friend of mine says that this process is akin to watching a boa constrictor swallow a hat - and the hat-swallowing phase can be rather long and arduous."

Writing The Voyage of the Narwhal involved more than simply reading. Before the nov-el was finished, she travelled to the Canadian Arctic, to an Inuit village called Pond Inlet on Baffin Island. "There's a channel between Bylot Island and Baffin Island and the ice

stays frozen there a little longer than in most places. The Inuit go out every year about 15 miles along that ice to the ocean, and hunt. But the inuit will also take stupid white peo-ple there because they pay better than the fish do, and that's where I went, watching the sun go round in the sky and watching the birds and getting an experience of the weather, of the stiliness, of the light."

Like the travellers in The Voyage of the Narwhal, she did not have a camera. "My inability to describe or sketch what I saw in a way that did the landscape justice was very educational in terms of the experiences of my characters." She discovered, too, that she had simply not understood

some essential details from her reading, such as how the sun moves in the sky when it never sets. "People talk about ellipses and figures of eight but I couldn't see it right and I wasn't writing about it right. When I saw it, I understood it. Being there really changed the book a lot."

These days, at work on a new book of stories, she spends most of her time at home, writing and reading, although she teaches part-time at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina and does as many readings as her nervous-ness of public speaking will allow. "I say yes to all these people," she says ruefully, "and then I remember that they want you to talk."

The Voyage of the Narwhal, which is able to confront certain issues, such as the exploitation of native peoples by those who call themselves explorers, with much more freedom and clearer sight than if its writer were imprisoned in a modern cell of political correctness: Barreti's work stands alongside that of writers such as Beryl Bainbridge and Pat

There are always those who

argue that historical novels

are not relevant to the world

we live in: that they are - even

more than all fiction is, in any

case — just a form of escape. That is certainly not true of

Barker Good historical fiction engages with the modern world, just as good history engages

with the modern world. Why do we need any more books about the Civil War? Why do we need any more books about the Reformation? It has all been done. But we write new books and we read new books because they are always at the same time about our world, our perceptions and our interpretations."

It is this that makes The Voyage of the Narwhal a remarkable modern novel, and its unassurning author an adventurer in the truest sense of the word

◆ The Voyage of the Narwhal by Andrea Barrett (Harper-Collins, £16.99, ISBN 0 00 ollins, £16.99, ISBN 0 00 225793 9).

Book review, page 43



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# Sex and the older woman



hails

Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on the benefits of HRT; drugs that cause men to grow breasts; outbreaks of 'mad goat' disease in Italy; rest and back pain; suicide among young people

f the menopause is a problem, it is a problem of civilisation. When the Romans conquered Britain two millennia ago, the expectaoon of life for a woman was 23. Until the late 19th century only one woman in three reached her menopause, but now the average life expectancy is 78 and most of The Times's female readers should plan to make it to their eight-ues. They will have at least 30 post-

menopausal years. The average age of the menopause in Britain is 51, although it is three or four years later on the West Coast of Scotland and the Western Isles. For those who fear the post-menopausal years. the news has never been better. The various types of HRT on the

add zest.

even

passion, to

women's

lives

market are constantly improving, and not only is HRT likely to reduce the incidence of heart disease. ischaemic strokes, osteo-porosis and Alzheimer's disease, but, according to re-cent research, it is going to add more zest, even passion, to the last third of a

Dr Alessandra Graziottin, a gynaecologist in Milan, was in London this week to introduce her book Secuality in the Elderly, coupled with a new HRT

Snow

en

skin patch marketed under the product Evorel. These are only a tenth of a millimetre and are nearly colourless, mould-ing well to the skin. Women who have had a hysterectomy should have Evorel, those who have not need Evorel Segui or Evorel Conte so as to receive both oestrogen and progestogen.

Dr Graziottin pleads the cause of older women who, she says, in a youthorientated society suffer under the taboo against sexuality in the elderly, and that this taboo is more of a problem for women than men,

Surveys show that in the years just before the menopause, about 30 per cent of women have no sex life. In the years immediately after it, 40 per cent have abandoned "all that sort of thing" — as they say in the surgery — and that those who are still active are sometimes reluctant partners.

Dr Graziottin quoted from a study which showed that more than 25 per cent of women taking HRT still worried about the effect of the menopause on their sex life. This was hardly sur-prising as, before they had started on HRT, 79 per cent had lost their libido— their sexual drive—and 63 per cent complained of lack of energy in general. Seventy-five per cent of the women whose sex drive had ebbed with the years, and their periods, were concerned that their husbands would lose affection for them.

More than 60 per cent of women no-ticed benefit from taking HRT. The ben-efits were not confined to the bedroom, but affected nearly every aspect of their

lives. Interestingly, although only 41 per cent of women noticed an improve-HRT will ment in their sex life. 57 per cent of their partners were pleased with the result.

There was also an immediate improvement in such symptoms as hot flushes, night sweats and lack of en-ergy. The immediate menopausal mental symptoms, moodiness, tearfulness and depression, were also eased in between 70 and 95 per cent of cases. After two years on HRT all the symptoms, in well over 75 per

cent of patients, had disappeared.

Dr Graziottin feels that the problems of both wanting to have some passion in life and remaining attractive extends beyond the atrophic changes and their consequences on the vagina, bladder and the breasts.

Women feel defeminised because of the loss of their sexual identity, weight gain, wrinkles, dry skin and hair, loss of lubrication, difficulties in achieving orgasm, and very possibly an aversion to sexual contact.

Surprisingly, sensory organs that in-fluence libido and attractiveness include the skin, the sense of smell and taste. Dr Graziottin says that the change of a woman's smell is particularly important because of pheromones secreted by the sweat and sehaceous glands of younger skin. These are restored by HRT.



Sexual identity: more than 60 per cent of women noticed benefits from taking hormone replacement therapy

# Why men grow big breasts

IN the same week that Dr Alessandra Graziottin was advising on how women may maintain a soft-skinned, youthful breast by using the latest HRT derived from natural sources. Dr Mark Walker, of Newcastle University, was giving warning to men in the Prescriber magazine of the various drugs, invaluable as they are, that may, dismayingly, achieve rather the same results for them.

As those who have played rugby football and used a communal bath - know, the size of men's breasts varies considerably between individuals. In old-fashioned rugby sides, the huge breasts of the second-row forwards were no more than the result of 100 much beer and too many sandwiches.

However, an increase in the amount of actual breast tissue, often associated with tenderness and some firmness under the nipples, is much more important and constitutes a condition known as gynaecomastia.

The second-row forwards' breasts are not simply the result of too many calories: they can also be blamed on an excessive amount of alcohol. Alcohol has a feminising effect because it increases levels of oestrogen, the female hormone, while at the same time testosterone levels fall. Gynaecomastia through increased blood oestrogen levels can also be caused by marijuana, digoxin — which is used to treat heart failure — and griscofulvin, which is prescribed for treating skin fungi.

Substances other than alcohol which reduce the testosterone level are cimetidine, which is used to treat indigestion, spironolactone, a diuretic, ketoconazole, another fungicide. phenytoin, which is commonly prescribed for some forms of epilepsy, or the anti-androgen agent cyproterone acctate.

It is less well known that similar but lesser effects may be the result of prescribing the major tranquillisers. The antipsychotic agents such as the largactil group of drugs, the phenothiazines and haloperidol. Two hypotensive agents taken to lower blood pressure, reserpine and methyldopa, may also occasionally increase breast tissue, as can metoclopramide - better known as Maxolon — which treats nausea.

The tricyclic antidepressant may also cause some breast heaviness, and so, too, can verapamil, which is useful in controlling some forms of cardiac arrhythmia. All of these have important uses in medicine.

However, marijuana-induced breasts would seem to offer no compensatory medical advantages. And those whose breasts are enlarging for no better reason than that they sink too many pints of beer should also take heed and restrict their intake to either two pints a day, or half a bottle of wine. Alcohol in moderation will not have this effect but, if too much is taken, a man will not only develop big breasts and a big belly, but skinny arms and legs, genital atrophy and a paucity of body hair.

The disadvantages are not only cosmetic. In cases of gynaecomastia the feminine breasts may, like those of a woman, develop cancer. It is not unusual for men to have such big breasts that mammography is called for.

We are not alone

Earth's twin found

#### Italy hit by outbreak of 'mad goat' disease | Don't bother

even rack of lamb. There is a report in The Lancet from the Laboratory of Veterinary Medicine in Rome about a recent increase in transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. TSE is to the goats and sheep of Tuscany. Sicily, Sardinia and Apulia what BSE — "mad

cow disease — has been to the Friesian cows of Norfolk. Vets studying 20 outbreaks of TSE suggest that the timing of the outbreaks (there were 15 in the first six months of 1997) and the high incidence in flocks (up to 90 per cent) imply that the spread of the disease probably had an accidental cause. It is also unusual for so many goats to be involved, but on this occasion there have been more than 390 cases. It

THOSE holidaying in some seems unlikely that the sheep parts of Italy this year should, perhaps, eschew a kid stew or taminated food, as some of the mary glands of sheep. There are several strains of TSE, with different properties, that flocks worst affected were receiving no food that could have been infected by bonemeal or other animal protein.

The likely cause is thought to be the contamination of a vaccine prepared with material from the brains and mam-

may be capable of affecting human beings. There was also an accidental outbreak in Scotland in 1935 after the use of contaminated vaccine. It is not known whether there was any increase in Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as a result.



Goats in some parts of Italy have been afflicted with TSE

INEVITABLY, there has been discussion this week about suicide among young people, and everyone's heart goes out to the Taylor family. After Malcolm Taylor's statement about the death of his son Nicholas, it would seem, if this was a case of suicide, that there were many atypical features, and that Mr Taylor's analysis was motivated by reasonableness rather than the grief that he must be feeling.

E

#### Riddle of boy's suicide

Dr Peter Hardwick, a consultant psychiatrist, has made a study of adolescent suicide and recently published find-ings in Young Minds maga-zine. He noticed pointers to sui-cide risk: most of the victims had existing psychiatric prob-

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suicidal intentions. Before a suicide attempt is made, an adolescent usually displays signs of unhappiness. There is a lack of high-spirited chatter and laughter, a loss of interest in the future, in hobbies and in friends, and a reluctance to go out. The adolescent's mood changes and he or she becomes withdrawn and

lems, particularly depression, which was apt to be marked

by antisocial behaviour, alco-

hol or drug abuse. Many youths had spoken about their

unhappy. If Mr Taylor was correct in his assessment of his son's manner, speech and plans just before his death, Nicholas would have not quali-fied for special attention on any of these points. In fact, according to his father, there is evidence that his mood and behaviour totally contradicted each and every one.

### resting that back

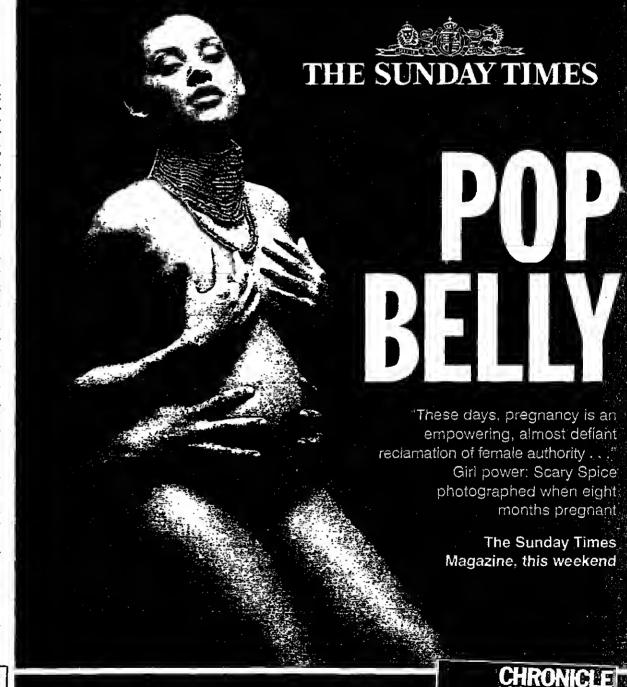
TIMES readers are very attached to tradicional treatment and are not always particularly interested if modern statisti-cians show it to be useless. Several readers have written in quite angrily to say how a few weeks of absolute rest after they put their backs out is the way to relieve the pain and return to normal living.

Unfortunately for readers who are prepared to spend weeks lying on the floor, there is more bad news.

Another study, this time by Dr Richard Deyo of the University of Washington, Seattle, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, demonstrates that though bed rest has been the standard treatment for nerve-root pain for nearly 70 years, it is no better than doing nothing. In a trial, patients were either assigned to bed rest or watchful waiting. All patients were given painkillers. Seventy per cent of the bed-rest group reported an improvement, as did 65 per cent who remained up and about. After 12 weeks, 87 per cent of patients in both groups had improved, whatever the

There was no significant difference between groups in re-gard to pain and activity. Intriguingly, the likelihood of recovering was not related to whether there was evidence of nerve-root compression.

Dr Deyo said that it was already known that bed rest was ineffective for non-specific lower back pain; this trial has shown that it makes no difference even when the back pain is associated with sciatica.



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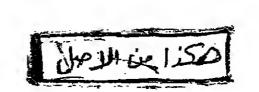
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Farmers must be more than

glorified park-keepers

n Julian Barnes's new novel, England, England, an idealised version of England and its best-loved traditions is recreated on the Isle of Wight. Village pubs, Devonshire cream teas, Robin Hood and his Merrie Men, Beefeaters, the White Cliffs of Dover — all the images of a mythical olde worlde country are brought together and

This of course includes rural England. Modern agriculture, with its battery hens and slurry-filled yards is replaced by the countryside as we like to imagine it. Shepherds in smocks whistle up their old English sheepdogs, rustics with wooden pitchforks toss hay on to stacks, and plodding horses drag jolting carts down winding lanes. Sir Jack Pitman, the billionaire mogul behind this attention as its content of the pitch of th behind this enterprise, points out that since the traditional English countryside was a largely artificial, man-made creation, there is no reason why it should not be turned into one that attracts visitors rather than repels them. "I'm not talking about agriculture," I'm talking about

people."
Sir Jack, it seems, may be the hidden hand behind the reforms to the European Union's common agricultural policy being negotiated in Brussian statements. sels this week. The ministers of Europe's 15 member states are discussing Agenda 2000, a

revolutionary propo-sal that could turn farming policy on its head. Those who live on the land are no longer to be encouraged, as they have been in the past, to produce more, to farm intensively, to build surpluses and to provide cheap food for consumers. whatever the cost. They are to become

<u>euardians</u> ot the countryside, charged with conserving the environment rather than despoiling it, diversifying into tourism. crafts and service industries. We're not talking about agriculture, we're talking about people, seems to be the message. And if you think I parody, consider this extract from the EU's own statement on the new CAP:

"The Community is concentrating on building small and medium-sized businesses, exploiting new technology in favour of rural areas, rural tourism and so on . . . the main priorities are craft investments, the renovation and development of villages, and the protection of the environment, maintenance of the countryside and restoration of

What this means is that instead of subsidising the produce of the land, it is the and itself that will be subsidised. And since that depends on the people who live there, it is they who must be supported - provided that they diversify along the lines envisaged by the EU. In one sense, this process has already begun. Ask any sheep-farmer who has seen the price of his lambs drop to below the price of a packet of crisps, and you will find him looking elsewhere for income. The recent TV series on farming by Oliver Walston. himself a barley baron who has waged a steady campaign against EU subsidies, re-

vealed an industry in crisis. with small and medium-sized farmers turning to outside sources of funding to survive. A friend who farms in the

Borders was amazed to realise that the three cottages which he had renovated and let to holidaymakers now provide half his annual income. The comments he sees in his visitors' book show that those who come to enjoy the rural life appear to share Sir Jack's "We loved to see the sheep being rounded up," said one. "We hope they're not being sent to market." My friend is hoping to invest in a

It is a seductive idea. Who could object to seeing our hedgerows replaced, our drystone dykes rebuilt, and all those hideous tin grainstores replaced by half-timbered barns the way we think we remember them? The encouragement of organic farming and traditional agriculture sounds good to those of us who live in towns, and it is, as Mr Walston points out, absurd that he, a wealthy farmer, should be paid a third of his income in subsidier. his income in subsidies, to produce more grain that no-body wants, while crofters and hill-farmers go to the wall.

Seductive, but superficial. Whatever conclusions they reach this week, EU ministers must swiftly reassure small and medium-sized farmers that there is a future in

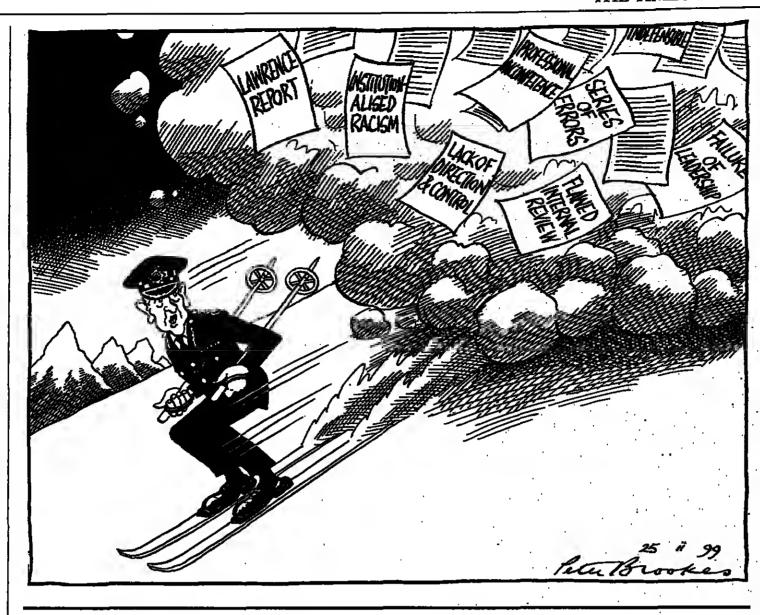
> not just in conservation and tourism. For generations, farmers have been encouraged to expand and modernse and they have done so with notable success. Under Margaret Thatcher they moved in just ten years from supplying less than half Britain's food needs to near self

sufficiency. They have contributed to low prices in the shops and have consistently outperformed their European competitors.

f all that is to be reversed. the incentives that attract the best farmers and the most innovative ideas would be removed. Progressive agriculture would be downgraded or discouraged. There would be early retirement plans to encourage the older, most experienced farmers to hand over their land to larger concerns which would imple ment the new policies. The ambition to produce the fattest sheep, the highest-yielding cow, the earliest crop, all the ingredients that make agriculture worthwhile and profita-

ble, would be reined back. The net effect would be to drive the best farmers, who have no desire to become outdoor housekeepers or glorified park-keepers, off the land. The skills of husbandry and good land management, built up over generations, would be lost. And who knows when we might need them again? Farm-ing has been a lifeline often enough for Britain in the past. It could become so again. Sir Jack's pastoral idyll is a pleasant dream, but it is no more than that. In Brussels this week, they should remember that man cannot live by

half-timbered barns alone. comment@the-times.co.uk



# Tony meets his nemesis

atching Tony Blair's parliamentary state-ment about the single currency on Tuesday. I suddenly experienced a reprise of the delicious tingling I experienced when I watched Bill Clinton's videotaped Lewinsky testimony last October and, before that, when I saw Michael Portillo's defeat in Enfield in May 1997. On each occasion it was the feeling that I might be witnessing a truly historic

Don't worry, this is not going to be another technical article about the rights and wrongs of economic and monetary union. This is a subject on which I have often expounded in the past and there will be time enough to return to it in the years ahead. It was not Mr Blair's apparent decision to join EMU that created the sense of history on Tuesday. The likelihood that Britain will join EMU in the foreseeable future was not much affected by anything the Prime Minister said. In my view, the probability of Britain joining is still around 60 per cent, about where it has been ever since 1991, when John Major signed the Maastricht treaty. The odds are slightly better than even, not because economic management from Frankfurt will be good for Britain, but because the herd instinct of Britain's business elite will probably, in the end, overwhelm the public's instinctive good sense. Why, then, did f sense that history

was stalking the House of Com-mons? Because Mr Blair's statement was as politically portentous as it was vacuous from an economic point of view. And just as import-antly, the same could, for once, be said ahout the rebuttal by William Hague. Mr Hague displayed, for the first time since he became Conservative leader, the gravity and depth required from a Leader of the Opposition. He seemed not just graver, but somehow even older, than usual. As he forensically exposed the deviousness and inconsistency of the Government's policies on Europe, it was possible to fantasise that Mr Hague might be more than an irrelevant sacrificial placeholder — a Tory version of Neil Kinnock or Michael Foot Maybe we might, after all, be witnessing the maturing, formative experiences of a Thatcher-style dark horse.

that Tuesday's statement would be seen in retrospect as a watershed in British politics. Mr Blair's ringing The Prime Minister's plan to ditch

the pound could be his undoing

declaration for EMU, so starkly inconsistent with his pre-election wooing of disillusioned Thatcherite voters, could one day be remembered as the apogee of a political career which seemed to enjoy divine protection up to that point. The Prime Minister has thus far defied all the laws of politics by mulding all the laws of politics by avoiding the usual slump in popularity during the parliamentary mid-term. But maybe this would prove to be his moment of maximum hubris,

comparable to Mrs Thatcher's

Bruges speech, Mr Major's 1992 elecrold Wilson's declaration that Labour had become "the natural party of government Why do I think that nemesis might

be approaching for Mr Blair? Because his new policy on EMU did not come across as a positive. self-confident declaration in favour of the curo, but as a nervous, defensive, negative decision to abolish the pound. Even in the devout-

ly pro-EMU Independent the headline read "Blair gears up to ditch the pound". Herein lies the real threat not only to Mr Blair's European policy, but perhaps to his personal popularity and even his entire political project.

Adopting the euro is almost universally perceived in Britain, even by EMU supporters, as an uncomfortable necessity, an essentially defensive decision — something the country must do to avoid "missing the bus" or "being relegated to the second division". The reason why EMU is perceived so much more negatively in Britain than in the rest of Europe has nothing to do with our cynical national character or a general distrust of politicians. The explanation is rooted in the EMU project itself. On the Continent the euro is seen mainly as an economic means to an essentially political end. The objective is to create a powerful political union canable of holding its

own against the United States and protecting Europe from the domina

tion of Anglo-Saxon culture. In Britain, by contrast, the politi-cal unification of Europe is unpopu-lar, even among many EMU sup-porters. It is presented as a purely economic project — something that should be undertaken only if the economic benefits are "unambiguous and clear", to quote Mr Blair's own words. But, even ignoring the many economic arguments against EMU, nothing is ever "clear and

unambiguous" economics. Biair Will be able to win economic support for EMU only by spreading fear about the costs of staying outside. But this general negativity towards

EMU puts Mr Blair in a double bind. To justify joining the euro he must perthat Britain is too weak and insignificant to run an independent economic policy outside monetary union. But this is manifestly false.

since Britain is the fifth largest economy in the world, with far greater scope to exercise economic sovereignty than such successful countries as Canada, Switzerland and Australia. To prove that there is no choice but to join EMU, Mr Blair must therefore convince the public that the British economy is actually weaker than it seems. That means running down his own Government's economic achievements ranging from his welfare state reforms to the surprisingly successful policy of transferring monetary

authority to the Bank of England. The tension between running down and boosting Britain is not just a theoretical problem. It can he crystallised in a very simple political contradiction. To win convincingly in the next general election Mr Blair needs a strong, non-inflationary economic recovery between the end of this year and 2001. But if the economy performs well in the years leading up to an EMU referendum. it will be hard to convince the public why Britain is in such mortal peril if it stays out. If, on the other hand, the British economy performs poorly between now and 2001, how will Mr Blair maintain the popularity he needs to risk a referendum?

his Catch-22 in terms of Britain's economic performance points to a more immediate and personal danger for Mr Blair. By making Tuesday's statement, the Prime Minister has undertaken to champion the cause of British membership and to lead public opinion in the months and years ahead.

But what if the public refuses to be led? What if his statement, instead of making the euro more popular, actually leads to a swing in opposite direction in the polls Mr Blair will then be in another double bind. If public opinion swings against the euro he will be under huge pressure to intensify his pro-euro rhetoric, but this could turn opinion even more strongly against the euro and against hun-self. If, on the other hand, Mr Blair ignores a negative swing in public opinion and decides to lie low until the time for a referendum is nearer. he will face accusations of cowardice, opportunism and hypocrisy from EMU supporters. After Tuesday's statement, these accusations

will be justified. The hope in Downing Street is, of course, that the Government's commitment to join the euro will create a sense of momentum and inevitability that will move public opinion in favour of EMU. Perhaps it will. But if the people balk — and the first important test will be in June's European elections — Mr Blair could be in serious political peril of a kind that was hard to imagine even

a week ago. Reversals of fortune are the stuff of politics, especially in the post-Cold War era when the absence of ideological anchors makes the public fickle and proce to massive swings in opinion on apparently flimsy grounds. Just look at the faces of Newi Gingrich, Margaret Thatcher, John Major, Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl. The only certainty in politics is that nemesis always follows hubris. The great question. as in Greek drama, is when nemesis will strike and how. Could it have been not just history, but nemesis stalking the Commons on Tuesday?

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk



# Caught in law

JACK STRAW has infuriated the Attorney-General for his bungled attempt to suppress the fourth estate. When the Home Secretary sought his injunction to pull The Sunday Telegraph's splendid scoop on the Lawrence report, he failed to consult John Morris.

The A-G was watching a rugby match while Straw asked the Treasury Solicitor to find a judge in chambers. If our most senior law officer had been consulted, I under stand he would have advised

against seeking an injunction.

Morris's more considered approach reflects his experience the last time an attempt was made to stop papers reporting an embar-rassing item. The A-G was persuaded to issue an injunction preventing the naming of Straw as the minister whose son had been accused of touting pungent eigarettes: the ban made bad law and sent Morris's reputation up in smoke.

ALEXANDRA AITKEN, the charming daughter of Jonathan, has been offered a head-turning



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sum to appear in a toothpaste ad. "If I am going to establish myself as a sculptor, I need to make money," coos the tender creature (bearing her fangs, above). "But I would rather not have to. It is for some baking soda brand."

■ WAR at Westminster between Robin Oakley, BBC political editor, BBC types say the frisson dates back to 1992, when Sergeant, the housewife's choice, was overlooked for the job left vacant by John Cole. He has bristled ever since. In the latest eruption, Oakley is said to have screamed "you never have & been a team player" to Sergeant, whose response was pithy. They have their difficulties. I am told, "but it has to be seen in context."

MICK JAGGER (below left) and Rod Stewart (right) have bonded over their marital woes. The ageing sexual incontinents. normally steadfast combatants in love, have been chatting about single life, and trading tips about divorce lawyers. My advice: stay married, it's cheaper.





PADDY ASHDOWN's Dad had a bad war. "He was involved in every retreat starting with Dunkirk and ending with Burma," the Liberal Democrat leader told me at the unveiling of the Memorial Gates plan. The late John Ashdown had been a subaltern of the 14th Punjabis, in charge of an Indian mile company on the rout in 1940.
"A disgraceful injunction to abandon the Indian soldiers. He refused and took them to Dunkirk. He was court-martialled but the British realised he had acted in the true traditions of the Indian Army and dropped the charge."

WARMING words from the assassin formerly known as Mrs Robin Cook. "Me trying to advise him was counter-productive, provoking him to excess," says Margaret. "His longest mini-addiction was comfort eating." Who can blame him?

■THE High Sheriff of East Sussex, Viscountess Brentford, has made a request in the dying days of her office of official handshakes "She's asked to be fire-bombed," I am told by a sergeant from the local police station.

"She's going to come to train with riot police and sit in a squad car chasing criminals - because she said she wants to know what it feels like. It was a strange request. But that's what the lady wants."

SIGNALS from the top of the TV mast bode ill for David Elstein's hopes of replacing Sir John Birt. Sir Christopher Bland, BBC Chairman, said to a huddle of big aerials: "Anyone who is not in this room is not a candidate." Elstein was lecturing in Oxford.

JASPER GERARD

#### 'There are good reasons why Sir Paul Condon should not be hounded from office. But for those same reasons he should resign now' Lawrence". The third line of of the Met whose morale desper-

7 hat Sir Paul Condon is a man of considerable decency, dignity and honour is not in doubt. That he has sought to confront racism within his constabulary cannot be denied either. For those reasons, the Home Secretary was right not to sack Sir Paul nor to allow him to be hounded from office. But Sir Paul's own sense of honour, and his commitment to fighting racism should, nevertheless, prompt him to realise that the most dignified response to his critics would be his own

The defence of Sir Paul apears to rest on four arguments. The first is that he is not himself a racist. Secondly, it is argued that his role in the events surrounding the investigation of Stephen Lawrence was marginai. Moreover, as many rightwing commentators have put it. "the police did not kill Mr

defence is the proposition that Sir Paul's departure would "damage police morale" and undermine operational effectiveness. The final argument put in his defence now, rests on the imminence of his departure in any case. It is argued that since he has only 10 months left in his contract, he should be permitted to initiate what all concede will need to be drastic change.

There is some merit in all these assertions. But not much. They fade into insignificance before the much wider issue of institutional responsibility. The Mac-pherson report outlines a police inquiry of numbing ineptitude and insensitivity in response to a foul racist murder. There are rural police forces that have handled stranded cats with more conviction than the Met showed in the Lawrence case. There is, unfortunately, no reason to be-

#### Tim Hames

lieve it was an isolated lapse. It reflects a force in dire straits. Sir Paul is, of course, no racist. He has, indeed, proved a committed anti-racist. But that is not the point. It is a testament to the appalling state of the capital's police overall that the senior officer's shining track record on race is thought so worthy of comment. The central question is whether Sir Paul has reduced racism within his ranks. Sir William Macpherson of Chuny

concludes that he has not. The truism that "the police did not kill Stephen Lawrence" does not help us to understand mat-ters. Police indifference contributed to an atmosphere in which racists and their victims felt that such attacks would carry a low risk of arrest and imprisonment. Sir Paul did not personally

cause this chain of events, nor did he condone them. Lord Carrington did not personally invade the Faiklands and place the Argentine flag above Port Stanley. Nor did Sir Richard Greenbury, the former Marks & Spencer chairman, personally order a huge stock of uninspiring frocks that refused to sell. But both men waiked the plank for others' actions. The accountability of the chief, not his individual association with error, is what matters.

The contention that police morale would collapse if Sir Paul hung up his truncheon is incredible. This line is often parroted by the same sort of people who, rightly, would never take such tosh from hospital administrators campaigning against NHS Paul announced his intention to league tables. There is a section retire early, Jack Straw could not tim hames@the-times.co.uk

ately needs to be lowered, preferably to the level at which they will seek other employment. Only if the most senior head rolls will it occur to every constable that in the new era, old attitudes are to be abandoned, not camouflaged in a more sophisticated fashion.

inally, there is the absurd notion that because Sir-Paul is scheduled to retire next January there is no value in him standing down now. The assumption is that he would be replaced by his Deputy Commis-sioner. John Stevens who, it is numoured, is rather a conservative figure. None of this stands up to closer examination. Mr Stevens' record in Northumberland suggests he has several radical bones in his body. And there is no reason why, if Sir

install a permanent replacement before January. Sir Paul would doubtless like to start the process of change that must come over his charge. But sincerity is not the same as credibility. History is hardly

stuffed with lame-duck individuals, damaged by past failure, who swiftly and effectively im-pose radical reform. There can be no root-andbranch reconstruction of the Met, especially not one that rebuilds the shattered confidence. of the black community, that

does not start with the immediate resignation of the Commissioner. The police in London don't require shiny new name badges, as was suggested yesterday but many new officers. Sir Paul's last act of public service should be toset an example by making way for a new Commissioner.

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### THE LAWRENCE LEGACY

How to harness wisely the momentum of reform

Even after all the long preliminaries, the leaks, the reconstructions, the theatre, the campaigns, it is impossible to read the report of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry without succumbing to grief and anger. The waste of a promising young life, the evil that motivated murderers, and the incompetence of those charged with investigating this crime are, severally, enraging. Taken together, they form a bleak indictment of the nation's failure effectively to tackle racism. Those who have had to live with that failure for six years, and without the admirable son they loved, fully deserve the nation's sympathy. The dignity of Neville and Doreen Lawrence as they have tried to bring their son's killers to justice has been an inspiration. The desire to make amends for their loss is powerful and rooted in decency. But emotion, however noble, must not be allowed to sweep every other consideration from its path. The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report makes 70 recommendations, many of them overdue, but not all wise.

Anger has, understandably, found a focus in the Metropolitan Police's grotesquely incompetent handling of the murder investigation. The police's failure to deal effectively with the criminals responsible is shocking. But, now as earlier in the week, justice is still not served by the demand that the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, should serve as a scapegoat for unassuaged grief. He has squarely accepted the criticism levelled at his force by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and his team. Sir Paul was understandably reluctant to accept the blanket condemnation of his force implied by the initial accusation of "institutional racism". But he yesterday showed a mature appreciation of the flaws in the police service which were highlight-

ed by the inquiry. The police's failings are not best under-stood when viewed solely thorough the prism of race. Society as a whole has been ill-served by the police service's failure to reform its recruitment, training and operational practices. It is certainly true that recruitment from ethnic minorities has been woeful, but it is also worth noting that recruitment of talented graduates from every background has been remarka-

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THE PERSON STREET, SEC. OF PERSON SEC. N.

bly poor. The police have failed not only to reflect a changing society, they have also failed to implement the managerial reforms which other public services have embraced. It should never be forgotten that this inquiry was made necessary by the police's failure to apprehend murderous criminals. Reform must concentrate on enhancing the operational effectiveness of the police rather than seeking to conciliate every interest group with a grievance.

The police still enjoy a level of public esteem and trust which forces in other nations envy, as Sir Norman Fowler pointed out in the Commons yesterday. But past complacency has allowed that trust and esteem to erode. Reform guided by enlightened liberal principles could limit the prospect of future failures.

Respect for liberal principles should also inform the Government's reaction to some of the inquiry's more ambitious recommendations. The proposal that individuals acquitted of one crime could be retried for the same offence, if new evidence is uncovered after the acquittal, is profoundly illiberal. It could allow the persecution of individuals by prosecuting authorities who felt the howl of public outrage at their back. Also disturbing is the suggestion that a racist incident be defined as "any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person". It should be for courts to exercise their settled judgment in assessing whether or not an incident is racist, not victims, however anguished. Justice depends on respecting the rights of victims, but those rights do not include elevating the victim to the judge's bench.

Most disturbing of all, perhaps, is the suggestion that the use of "racist language" should be considered a criminal offence where such conduct can be proved to have taken place otherwise than in a public place". Criminalising the private expression of opinion, however offensive, would constitute a remarkable curtailment of an historic liberty. As Sir Norman Fowler wisely observed yesterday, those who legislate in anger often live to regret it. The anger which Stephen Lawrence's death still provokes is amply justified; the reform of the police is transparently justified; but erosion of traditional freedoms is not

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

#### Government's announced 'change of gear' on euro

From Mr Michael Fabricant, MP for Lichfield (Conservative)

Sir, The Prime Minister stated today: Britain should join a successful single currency, provided the economic conditions are met" [reports and leading article, February 24]. He is right. Arguments surrounding a thousand years of British history pale into insignificance compared with the future wealth and prosperity of our nation. Questions of degree of econom-ic sovereignty mean little to the general working population: job security and living standards will always mean more.

It is on those very issues, however. that the Prime Minister has been un-characteristically silent. He says that our economy must converge with the eurozone before abandoning the pound. But our economic cycle has been out of synchronisacion with that of conunental Europe's for decades. There is no evidence that we are beginning to converge. To the contrary, our economy has benefited from

being in step with that of the US. If the Prime Minister believes that being part of a single monetary bloc is better than retaining the pound — and the economic arguments for this are still very shaky — why is there no consideration of an alternative "successful single currency" which does have a track record and whose economy is convergent with that of our own: the US dollar?

The Government vigorously opposed my Parliamentary Currency Commission Bill 12 months ago. This would have set up an independent commission to investigate and make recommendations, solely on economic grounds, as to which currency bloc, if any, would be most beneficial to Britain's financial wellbeing. This would have seemed in line with the Government's claim of economic pragmatism. Did its opposition arise from the fear that the commission might recommend sticking with sterling or worse still suggesting that the euro is

a second-best alternative to the dollar? Now that 21st-century technology has made geographical distance be-tween nations irrelevant and economic and social compatibility all-important, the Prime Minister's claim in the House today that he is a man of 'vision and pragmatism" belies the

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL FABRICANT, House of Commons. February 23.

From Mr David Arculus and others Sir, Business people throughout Brit-ain will welcome the decisive lead that the Prime Minister has taken in setong out the details of the Government's National Changeover Plan, which explains the clear and practical

public sector, must take in order to join the European single currency. Opinion surveys have consistently shown that business is in favour of entering the euro when the time is right. But they also show that business suffers from uncertainty, and has wanted a clearer lead from the Government. Now that such a lead has been given by the Prime Minister

steps that the country, including the

himself, business will be greatly encouraged. We recognise that the Government still has much to do, both to ensure that we meet the economic criteria for entering the euro, and to persuade public opinion that entry is the best course for Britain. We also recognise the need for further economic reform in Europe to preserve and enhance the compeoveness of the eurozone and its companies, and we welcome

the Prime Minister's commitment to

this reform. Yours sincerely, DAVID ARCULUS, CLIVE HOLLICK, COLIN MARSHALL **BRYAN NICHOLSON,** COLIN SHARMAN. KEITH TODD, GEOFF UNWIN, c/o European Movement, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, SWIP 2AF. From Mr J. B. Crisp

Sir. This small company has euro accounts in London and Holland. It trades in Europe in US dollars and euros. It sells in the UK in sterling and curos. It buys in the Far East and South America in US dollars.

Prior to January 1, 1999, it traded in Europe in US dollars, German marks, Dutch guilders and Spanish

The advent of the euro has made no difference to our trading activities, but the Prime Minister, in his statement today, seems to believe that the fact that we have opened euro accounts indicates our support for a single currency.

Far from it. We prefer to forgo any influence we may have in Europe if we join the single currency to maintain control over our own tax affairs. And to retain the option to devalue if trading conditions require it.

Yours faithfully, JOHN CRISP (Director) Stamford Brayham Limited, 38 Pine Walk, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HD. February 23.

From Mr Clive Henderson

Sir. Far from automatically softening up or bouncing the British people for entry into the euro, yesterday's 'change of gear' will create a culture of being in the euro without actually being so, thereby making it easier to consider the pros and cons at the referendum.

This will be an advantage over the preparation that France, Germany, etc, did not have in the run-up to the euro's introduction. We British don't have to imagine how the euro would perform and the evolving consequences.

We will be able to actually see and feel them.

Yours faithfully, CLIVE HENDERSON, Minos House, Naylors Road, Liverpool L27 2YA. February 24.

tion. The infrastructure is collapsing

- telephones often don't work, the

roads are in disrepair, electricity sup-

plies intermittent. Inflation and inter-

All the country's ills are blamed on

the white "settlers", especially the far-

mers (who produce a substantial pro-portion of Zimbabwe's foreign earn-

ings). Over 800 of them have received

letters saying that their farms now belong to the Government. Despite

IMF intervention, these letters have

not been withdrawn.

Yours sincerely, JOHN WHITMORE,

Hartfield, Sussex TN7 4JP.

From Mr Stuart Hutchinson

Sir, One of the great tragedies of a

country like Zimbabwe descending in-

doing, is that this is welcomed by

those such as Mr Milnes as some kind

of justification for the oppressive rule

est rates are at unbelievable levels.

February 24.

Politics in Zimbabwe From Mr Terence Miller

Sir, Mr Barrie Milnes (letter, Febru-ary 18) refers to "the destruction of civilised, responsible rule in ... Rhodesia". My recollection is of a situation of "soft" apartheid, acceptable to supporters of the Rhodesian Front Government, but hardly "civilised" by any other standard.

As to "responsible" - responsible to whom? Certainly not to the black majority, nor, since in its latter years the regime was in a state of rebellion. to the Crown.

Mr Milnes asks for expressions of remorse or regret. For my part, I do not regret the abolition of the illegal regime and the establishment of an independent African state, I do, however, regret the subsequent emergence of yet another example of Acton's "Law", that power tends to

Yours etc. TERENCE MILLER (Principal, University College of Rhodesia, 1967-69), Plough House, Sedgeford, Norfolk PE36 5LR. February 19.

From the Acting High Commissioner

Sir, Your correspondent in Harare alleges (report, February 18) that Pre-sident Robert Mugabe "is set on a potentially bloody course as he attempts to retain power". Curiously such predictions have become the norm in your paper — today's leading

article is another example.

The allegation that President Mugabe intends to "crush" the independent media should be dismissed with the contempt it deserves. It is surprising that whenever newspapers that support our Government disagree with the "independent" press this is always seen as an attack on freedom of expression.

On February 6, in his address to the nation, President Mugabe remarked that a political environment of freedom should not be the responsibility of the State alone. He said:

What is my freedom must necessarily also translate into the freedom of my neighbour. translate into the treedom of my neighbour. Similarly, what is my right must be recog-nised as the equal right of my neighbour, which is why all of us in society whether we are politicians, economists, churchpeople, journalists or writers, have the duty to rec-ognise that mutual or reciprocal relation-ship — that we all have rights, we all have freedom and, accordingly, we all have the responsibility, to recognise each other's rights and freedoms, bearing in mind that no one in society has more rights than the

It has become clear that certain sections of the media are itching for a change of government in Zimbabwe - at all costs. The country will be holding parliamentary elections next year, while presidential elections will take place in 2002. Those who feel very strongly that there must be a government of their own choice are free to participate as long as they are Zimbabweans and have the right to vote.

Yours faithfully, P. T. MUSAKA. High Commission of the Republic of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe House. 429 Strand, WC2R OSA. February 22.

From Mr John Whitmore

Sir. Having just returned from a stay on a white farm in Zimbabwe I hasten to echo the senoments expressed by

Mr Barrie Milnes. This once great land is now a shambles. Corruption and inefficiency are

rampant at every level of administra-

of the previous Government.

If one is in any doubt as to the repressive tendencies of the former regime, one need only note the fact that it was a law established by the Rho-

desian Government to silence those "causing alarm and despondency" that has now been used as the means to incarcerate the journalists Mark Chavunduka and Ray Choto, among others (reports, February 8 and 9).

Freedom of speech is a right for all which should be equally defended under both colonial and African rule: bad black government does not justify bad white government.

Yours faithfully. STUART HUTCHINSON, 62 Kings Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6EP. stu.hutchinson@btinternet.com February 18.

Television makes for a crowded landscape, so I can understand Stephen missing some of the high points: but his fears are unfounded.

Yours faithfully. ALAN YENTOB. Director of Television. **BBC** Television Centre, Wood Lane, Wt2 7RJ. February 17.

From Mr Mortin Pope

Sir. Your article on Stephen Poliakoff states that my film, Alive & Kicking, "had only played for about a week in the cinema" before it was screened by Channel 4 last Christmas.

In fact, it ran for over a month in the West End in the summer of 1997. followed by a national release, and for several months in the US. It has received four Most Popular Film awards, two Best Actor awards and a recent Grand Prix at a festival in France.

Contrary to the suggestion in the article, Alive & Kicking was commercially financed with Film On Four, without any recourse to money from the National Lottery.

Yours sincerely MARTIN POPE (Producer, Alive & Kicking). Martin Pope Productions Limited, 83 John Ruskin Street, SE5 0PQ. February 19.

#### 'Mindless' plan to raze Yatscombe

From Professor P. J. Parsons, FBA. ond others

Sir, Yatscombe, the house on Boars Hill near Oxford which was for 38 years the home of the Greek scholar and internationalist, Gilbert Murray, is threatened with demolition, and we write to argue for its protection on

historical grounds.
As Oxford's Regius Professor of Greek from 1908 to 1936 Murray won an esteem unique in his own time, and scarcely equalled since the Renaissance, as a public interpreter of Greek culture to the English-speaking world.

He was simultaneously a óreless force in bumane polices. As a former delegate to the League of Nations and President of the League of Nadons Union, he helped draft the UN Charter in 1945, and championed innumerable causes whose justice we now take for granted but which needed visionaries to promote them then: women's suffrage and education (he helped establish Somerville College). famine relief (Murray and his wife, Lady Mary — the original of Shaw's Major Barbara — were among the founders of Oxfam), concern for refugees (many of them personally welcomed at Yatscombe and its lodge, and the prevention of

cruelty to animals. The names of visitors to Yatscombe make an enlightened Who's Who of the period, including Einstein, Wells, Russell, Shaw. Chesterton, Gandhi. Tagore, Masefield. Toynbee, Aldous Huxley, Madame Curie, Lawrence of Arabia, and so many more that it is hard to name an English house with more dazzling associations from those

To knock the house down unneces-sarily — and it is unnecessary, since the proposal is only to put another one m its place as part of a scheme to turn a big neigbbouring property into flats - appears to us to be a mindless insult to the values Gilbert Murray represented, values we still all depend on and whose monuments we should treat with respect.

Yours faithfully, P. J. PARSONS. Regius Professor of Greek, University of Oxford, DAVID BRYER, Director, Oxfam. F. CALDICOTT. Principal, Somerville College, Oxford, P. E. EASTERLING. Regius Professor of Greek, University of Cambridge, PHILLIP EDWARDS. Chairman, Boars Hill Branch, Oxford Preservation Trust, EVAN HARRIS. Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford Wesl and Abingdon, ALEXANDER MURRAY, c/o Half Acre. Boars Hill, Oxford OXI SEZ. February 22.

#### International debt to chaos, as it seems inexorably to be

From Dr Ben Wood

Sir, The Archbishop of Westminster (letter, February 16) asks that statesmen attending the G7 summit in June should take the vital step towards halving the proportion of the world's population hving in absolute poverty

One would have much more sympathy with these views if the cardinal's Church allowed its flock the contraceptive means to take the vital step towards halving the world's population as a whole in the not-toodistant future.

Yours sincerely, BEN WOOD. 3 Kingsfield, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 3QY. February 16.

Queen's governess

From Mrs J. M. Bury

Sir. The caption to the watercolour illustrating your article on Baroness Lehzen (February 6; see also letters, February 16] states that it shows Queen Victoria "at the age of 18 with her courtiers". This is a nonsense. It is Victoria's sketch of herself with Archbishop Howley, Lord Melbourne carrying the Sword of State and the bearers of her regalia at the start of her Coronation in June 1838.

I wish I had known of the sketch wben I contributed an account of the Coronation to The Crown Jewels (Stationery Office, 1998). Instead, 1 illustrated it with a drawing by the Queen of herself at prayer, in identical costume and headdress (see also Marina Warner, Queen Victorio's Sketchbook, Macmillan, 1979).

Yours faithfully. SHIRLEY BURY. S Tasker Road, NW3 2YR. February 8.

#### Genes and Genesis

From Mr Chris Bateman

Sir, Just think what God could have achieved if only he'd had the expertise of Monsanto and the support of new Labour.

Yours faithfully, CHRIS BATEMAN, 9a Redeliffe Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 5BW. chris.bateman@virgin.net February 23.

# ARTS OF BRUSSELS

Why Blair must halt the EU's assault on the London art market

On Tuesday Tony Blair held out his "vision" of a European Union facing up to the "realities of global commerce". Today, barely 48 hours later, that vision comes up to British commerce by ill-founded EU regulations that hobble the capacity of

companies to compete in global markets. before today's EU Internal Market Council, is a perfect example of the European Commission's misuse of its powers to prevent "distortions" of the EU's single market. It would impose an EU-wide sales tax, payable to the artist or his heirs, on any work sold during his lifetime or for 70 years thereafter. However benevolent the intentions behind such a law, which already exists in 11 EU countries, it is a social measure, properly a matter for national governments, which has no place

WANTED TO ERYBODY UT THE 15200 ON in single market legislation. The Commission justifies this meddling on the ground that artists' resale rights must be imposed EU-wide to prevent "distortion of competition" and "displacements of sales". This is nonsense. Most EU art markets are small and domestic. London, the EU's only truly international centre, would be disproportionately damaged. There is no gain for the EU. To avoid the levy, payable by the seller, vendors would move not just out of London but out of the EU altogether, to Geneva or New York. The "level playing field" would be emptied of players. If governments want to help artists in a non-distorting way, they

should do so on a global basis, by amending the Berne Convention.

The Government estimates Britain's losses at £1.2 billion a year in lost business, against another reality - the damage done around 5,000 jobs and perhaps £200 million of tax revenue. These losses would be in addition to the 40 per cent fall in business brought to the London market by The droit de suite directive, which comes non-EU customers since the imposition of a 2.5 per cent "import VAT" on works of art - a tax which is due to double in July and which never should have been accepted.

The legal basis of this directive should have been challenged at the start. Britain does not have the votes to block it now. The last line of defence is the "Luxembourg compromise", the crude weapon devised by the French with which governments can block EU legislation on the ground of "vital national importance". To a straight question in the Commons yesterday about whether or not he would wield it, Mr Blair avoided a straight answer, saying only that he was out to get "the best deal possible".

That is shorthand for compromise. The only good deal is no deal: to push this directive off the table, the Luxembourg compromise is the only strategy that will work. Tinkering with percentages is no substitute for defending the principle, which is that job-destroying "harmonisation" will not be tolerated. Mr Blair has a duty to defend one of this country's great international successes. He says that he has ruled nothing out; the proof will lie in whether, today, Lord Simon of Highbury takes up the Luxembourg blunderbuss.

### **SELECTIVE MEMORY**

The Foreign Secretary's poodle is a disgrace to Parliament

The Foreign Office, savaged for its shoddy lines of communication with Britain's High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, now appears to have had all too close contact with the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee. The committee's draft report and key conclusions were leaked to the Foreign Office. before publication, giving ministers improper advantage. Such collusion undermines Parliament's ability to hold the executive to account. The Government is awkwardly exposed as ready to condemn one leak, but exploit another.

The first culprit in this tawdry episode is Ernest Ross, the Labour MP for Dundee West, who has resigned from the select committee after admitting that he passed a draft of the report to the Government in January. Throughout the inquiry, Mr Ross behaved like the Foreign Secretary's poodle. Although he has apologised for breaching his colleagues' trust, Mr Ross should also reconsider his position on Labour's back benches. He chaired the selection committee which ruled that prominent leftwingers, such as Dennis Canavan, the MP for Falkirk West, were not fit to be official Labour candidates for the Scottish parliament. Sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander.

Tony Lloyd, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, should also be preparing for a career change. Only last week Mr Lloyd stated in a parliamentary written answer that the first time his department had seen the report was on February 9, publication day. He now claims that he thought the question referred to when the Foreign Office received the final version of the report. Such slippery evasions have marked ministers' approach to the whole Sierra Leone affair. The black spot sbould have been against Mr Lloyd's name at the last reshuffle; at the next, he must go.

The Foreign Secretary completes this unhappy cast. In opposition, he railed against William Waldegrave, then Health Secretary, for 'nobbling" a select committee and being leaked a draft of one of its reports. In pleading now that neither he nor anyone else at the Foreign Office committed "any impropriety", Mr Cook is, at best, being evasive. The Standards and Privileges Committee should be told what action Mr Cook took to report the leak. what was done with the information smuggled out to the Foreign Office, and which other Government officials and ministers saw it. It is time for all lines of communication to be exposed to scrutiny.

#### Names and numbers

From Mr Gregory Szanto Sir, I see that another bastion of indi-

viduality, the customising of car numberplates, is to be the target of the forces of law and order (letter from Mr Richard Tweed, February 20). No doubt when we, too, are provided with identification numbers. any attempt at individuality will likewise be met with the same coer-

Yours democratically. GREGORY SZANTO. Eastbourne Chambers. 15 Hyde Gardens. Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4PR.

cive insistence on conformity.

From Mr John Chombers

Sir. One-word numberplates would need to be carefully chosen. If plates such as ELVIS Imentioned by Mr Tweed) were permitted how would we avoid confusion with currendy valid marks such as ELV IS and ELV 15?

Yours faithfully, J. P. CHAMBERS, 24 Green Lane. Tadworth, Surrey KT20 6TL. February 22.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

#### BBC drama

From Mr Alan Yentob, Director of Television, BBC Broadçast

Sir, Stephen Poliakoff is a terrific writer and a fierce champion of cultural values, so I appreciate his concern that there may be a "dearth of drama in the BBC's autumn/winter schedules" (article, Metro, February 13) but he is worrying unnecessarily.

BBC Television is investing more in drama, and this year's spend is up by 10 per cent on last year - an increase of £17 million — so it is not true to say that our drama output is the lowest in

We are proud of BBC-TV's autumn and winter schedules, which have included The Cops, Alan Bennett's Talking Heads and Vanity Fair, plus the television premieres of six original feature films from BBC Films. As 1 write, we are about to launch Tony Grounds's bold series, Births, Marriages and Deaths, and Kay Mellor's outstanding second series of Playing the Field.

Stephen is also wrong in his belief that we have only "three or four-productions over the next two years". We have ten major new dramas including Peter Kosminsky's Peacekeepers. In A Land of Plenty. Gor-menghast, Wives and Daughters, All The King's Men and Nature Boy -

already in the making, and further commissions are in the pipeline.



#### **COURT CIRCULAR**

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 24: His Excellency Mr César B. Bautista was received in audience by The Queen today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador of the Philippines to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompa-nied by the following members of the Embassy:

Mrs Maria Rowena Mendoza Sanchez (Deputy Chief of Commission & Consul General). Mrs Maria Zeneida Angara-Collinson (Minister), Mr Gilberto Asuque (First Secretary and Consul), Colo-nel Pedro Ike Inserto (Defence and Armed Forces Attaché), Miss Lilybeth Deapera (Third Secretary and Vice-Consul). Mr Eduardo Jarque. Jr (Attaché) and Mr Vicente Casim (Commercial Attaché). Mr Christopher Hum (Deputy Under-Secre-tary and Chief Clerk, Foreign and

Mrs Maria Paz D. Bautista was also received by The Queen. The Prime Minister of Tuvalu

was received by The Queen. The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, attended "Symphony 21" — a celebration in music and dance of the Institute's vision for the 21st Century at the Commonwealth Institute, London, this afternoon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE February 24: The Prince of Wales. President. The Foundation for Integrated Medicine, this morning hosted a seminar with the Associa-tion of Medical Research Councils. His Royal Highness, Duke of Corowall, this afternoon received

the Chairman of Duchy Originals. Mr Guy McCraken. The Prince of Wales, President. Business In the Community, this afternoon received the Chief Execu-

tive, Miss Julia Cleverdon. His Royal Highness, Chairman. The Queen's Awards Review Comtruttee, later presided over the first meeting of the Committee.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this evening attended the Eddie Izzard show.

#### Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, senior trustee, will attend a quarterly meeting of the trustees of the and dinner for Arts and Nature. The Alliance of Religions and Conservation and the Israel Phiat Buckingham Palace, at 6.00.

The Princess Royal Trust for

"Dressed to Kill", at Wembley

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** February 24: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this morning chaired a meeting of the Working Committee of the Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation at Buckingham Pal-

His Royal Highness. Trustee. this afternoon attended a meeting of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Finance and Administra-don Committee at 6 Stratton

anended the annual dinner of The Majesty's Royal Palace & Fortress The Tower of London at the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' Headquar ters. The Tower of London.

February 24: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, today attended the launch of the Bobby Scheme at Surrey County Cricket Club, The Oval, Kennington, London

Her Royal Highness, Royal Honorary Colonel, University of London Officers Training Corps, this afternoon received Brigadier Kim Ross upon relinquishing his appointment as Honorary Colonel and Brigadier Richard Heyward

upon assuming the appointment. The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception at St James's Palace for Benenden School's 75th

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE February 24: Princess Alexandra this morning visited the Cassel Hospital to mark the beginning of the building of the new Families Centre at Ham Common, Rich-

National Maritime Museum. Greenwich, at 10.00, followed by luncheon: and will attend a concert harmonic Orchestra Foundation.

The Princess Royal, as president, Carers, will attend the Borders Carers Day at the Roxburghe Hotel, Heiton, Kelso, Roxburghhire at noon; will visit N. Peal, Victoria Road, Hawick, Roxburghshire, at 2001, and J. Scott. 16 Princes Street at 2.50. She will open the Glenview Children's Residen-tial Home. Marigold Drive, Galashiels. Roxburghshire. at 3.45: and as patron, Victim Support Scotland, will arrend a dinner at the Royal Bank of Scotland, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh at

The Duke of Gloucester, president.

The Prince of Wales this evening Body of Yeoman Warders of Her

Buckingham

The guests were:

Palace Luncheon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a lunch party at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The Hon Mrs Justice Ebsworth, High Courl Judge, Queen's Bench Division: Dr DeAnne Julius, Monetary Policy Commistee, Bank of England, Sir James Black, Chancellor, Dunder University: Sir Richard Evans, chairman, British Aerospace; Mr Duncan Konworthy, film producer; Caron Dovid Price, Rector of Wimborne Minster, and Mr Robin Young, Permanent Secretary, Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

St Helen's School,

In celebration of the School's

Centenary, a number of special

will also be holding a Service of Thanksgiving at St Helen's. Bish-opsgate, on Wednesday, May 12.

For anyone interested in attending

these events further details may be

obtained from the School on 01923

Prince Edward attended the annual dinner of the Body of Yeoman Warders held last night at HM Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London. The principal

Service dinner

Northwood

Her Royal Highness this after-noon inaugurated an Exhibition of the work of Augustus John at

Olympia, West London, Princess Alexandra, accompa-

#### attend the annual dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club Knightsbridge, SWI, at 7.40.

The Duke of Kent will visit the Central Science Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at Sand Hutton, Yorkshire, at 10.00.

nied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Dinner in aid of "Children with Special Needs in Egypt" at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, Lon-British Consultants Bureau, will

Kathleen Robinson will be held in The Royal Free Hospital Chapel on Tuesday, March 23, at 12.30pm.

#### Lectures

Mariborough Lent Lecture The Archbishop of Canterbury delivered the 1999 Marthorough Lent lecture last night at Marlbor-ough Town Hall to the Marlbor-

ough community. Company of World Traders' Mr Peter Job, Chief Executive of Reuters, delivered the annual Com-

Street, London Wi.

events are being held in the coming months. The Centenary Ball is on Saturday, April 24, at School, with tickers available to parents, Old Girls and friends of the School. The Old Girls Club is holding its Centenary Dinner at Glaziers Hall on Friday, May 7. followed, oo May 8-9, by Old Girls' Day and Celebration Sunday, both to be held at School. The School

#### Miss Kathleen

memorial service for Miss

# guests were: Lord Cannoys, Field Marshal Lord Inge, Lieuentam-Ceneral Sir Anthony DenisonSmith, Major-General Godiney Field, Major-General E J Webb-Carter, Brigadier M Huntley, Brigadier J H Griffin, Colonel S Metoer, Leuentant-Colonel S Watts, Colonel Brian Toye, General Freddie Franks, Major H R McMaster, US Array, Mr Tom Clancy and LieuteraniColonel Sean O'Dwyer. Appointment

guests were:

Press Complaints Commission pany of World Traders' Tacitus locture to the company last night at Goildhall. Mr Sheriff Brian Har-ris and Mr Peter Wildblood. Ms Alison Hastings. Editor of the Evening Chronicle in Newcastle, has been appointed a member of the Press Complaints Commission.

### The Institution of Civil Engineers

A final check on one of the exhibits at the Mali Galleries, London, where the National Print Exhibition 1999, the largest of its kind, opened yesterday. It continues at the galleries, near Admiralty Arch, until March 6

The Institution of Civil Engineers announces that the following candi-dates have been admitted to Corporate Membership, Associate Membership and Technician Membership following the successful completion of the 1998 Autumn session of the Professional Re-

Session of the Professional Reviews:

Corporate Members
Abrains R.J. Adams S.J. Ali U. Amerigo L. Ardrey A.G. Armstrong RRHAIPS, Arrison "G. Astron T. Andsley R.C. Awoleys E.D.A. Bisher S.P. Baldock Y.N. Burge S.J. Beadle E.C. Bell E.A. Bard C.J. Bishes S.J. Beadle J.M. Broadley G. T. Bryce G. Bat-Rashid J. Burnes R.M. Burnesick D.R. Burrow R. Bart A.D. Cail J.G. Camen W.C. Carr J.H. Carner T.L. Carnwright P.A. Creel D.G. Chainers
B.L. Chan H.C. Chrymann G. Chaudfery A.A. Chu C.L. Cliffe R.M., Cliffert R.H. Clough R.A. Clubbe J.J. Coth A.R. Cockrane D.G. M. Coe R.J. Cole J.D., Coffard-Jenhims S.J. Collier F. Corleon B.T. Corden B.T. Corbert P.R. Corley J.E. Corney R. Con D.P. Craddock L.P. Daulley S.M., Davis C.J. Denkin G.J. Devine D.L. Dewick G.D. Diek G.J. Dirthal E. Disson J.G. Diston M.R. Doraldson W.D., Durngworth D.S., Durne N.J. Earrey T.E. Ebudi M. Esson J.G. Palley T.J. Farrow A.J. Parragia "C. Feder L.J.P., Field G.R. Finch V.E. N. Flencher S.J. Flymn D.E. Foote J.S. Gell H.P., Gibson C.T. C. Gibmour A.J., Gledhill L.V. Goodkill D.R. Gordon M.N., Gordon M.N., Goodkill M. Hardie N. G. Chair M.S., Goodkill M. Graham J.K. Grennere J.W., Green M.A. Grey C.J. Grost L. M., Goldel J.M. Hardie C.W., Hurt J.C., kirks K.K.H. Bet E.J., knows N.J. belson D.E. James S.C., James J.K., Larvis S.R. Jeanes M.J. F., Robinson M.C., James A.D., Jones C.C., Jones M.R., Looph C.M., Karriey O.J., Kennan P.S.J., Kenchington A.W., Kersbey C.A., Rhalid J.I., Kirsey N.J., Rieg J.W., Kockman L.M., Marvis R. N., Marwiston S. M., Larvis G. R., Laweshyn D.H., Lawes C. P. R. W., Lisber G.R., Lleweilyn D.H., Lowis D.G. Lumbroso D.M., Mascolowall A., Marn S. K., Marvley K.A., Marvis P. R., Marvley S. M., McCarnie F. P., Marvis S. M., McCarnier R. M., Marvley S. M., McCarnier R. F., Marvley S. M., McCarnier R.

Farriers' Company Mr T.F.M. Head, Master of the Farriers' Company, and Mr H.J. Cooper, Chairman of the Farriers Registration Council, jointly presided at a presentation coremony beld last Friday in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomen's Hospital, West Smithfield. The Master presented the company's Fellowship in Mr Christopher Gregory (Missourit, USL, and Mr Andrew Popuna, and presented the Associated by Mr Rochard Spence, Mr Dean Bland and Mr British (Junch Republic of Ireland) received Deploma Certificates with Harbours and the Oliver Avaird Silver Medal. Company Milles P.N., Miller P.R., Illingua G.G., Mooriery T.A., Moorien E.J., Moundford J., Medligens E.G., Murchie G.S., Murchie G.S., Murchie G.S., Murchie G.S., Morror B. Ogden P.A., Orr? R.J., Cosner V.A., Page G.A., Palen V.P., Palmer C.A., Penetton C.H., Pengram G.F., Pertainagam J.M., Philipps F.M., Piller J.R., Plaumb C., Powell G.P., Renneum F.S., Rendell M., Richell B.R., Roberts M.B., Renneum F.S., Rendell M., Richell R., Roberts M.B., Renneum F.S., Rendell M., Richell B.R., Roberts M.B., Renneum F.S., Schooled R.S., Sc

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Burford A G. Clark L. Clever M A. Colline
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Francisco E. Hentley J W. Lee G I. Lewis
Mackensie S D. Postle K R. Reynolds R /
Sagndish M J. Vallis C J. Webb S P. SEX/IMP denotes there conditiones who have wen the Rence Reciters House Memorial Print an asterists (\*) denotes those condi-ciates who were constituted on the standard of their estay(s).

Diploma Corthauts were presented to Gazute P.R. Hodglünsen, of the King's Troop RHA. Farriers Lence Corporals of Horse LA. McGregor and N.J. Variey, of the Household Cavalay Mounted Registrans.

The Master also presented the company's deploma and country? Registration Certificates to candidates at Herrioritatic College of Technology and Warwick College after their examination at November 1995 and January 1999. The Chairman of the Earriers Registration Council also spoke.

A service was held earlier at the Priory Courch of St Bartholome-the-Great amended by candidates, approved training farriers and their families and friends.

#### **Dinners** Portuguese UK Chamber

of Commerce
The Ambassador of Portugal presided at a dinner of the Portuguese UK Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel to mark the signing of a new protocol. Eng Diogo Tavares, Vice-President of ICEP, the Portuguese Foreign Trade Body, was the guest speaker.

ICPD The inaugural dinner of the Institute of Continuing Professional Development (ICPD) was held last night at Middle Temple Hall. Sir Leonard Peach, chairman, presided, Lord Palumbo and Lord Palumbo also spoke.

Foundation for Science

and Technology Mr William J. Todd, Sir Roy McNulty and Sir Kenneth Bloomfield were the speakers at a lecture and dinner discussion of the Foundation for Science and Technology held last night at Ulster University. Lord Jenkin of Roding. chairman of the council of the foundation, presided.

#### Luncheons

Cartion Club Political Committee Dr Liam Fox. Opposition Spokes-man for Constitutional Affairs, was the principal guest and speak-er at a function of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club. Mr Simon Mabey, chairman of the committee, presided and Mr Simon O'Tooke also spoke.

Consular Corps of London Mr Charles Stevens, HM Chief Immigration Officer, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Consular Corps of London held yesterday at the Hyatt Cariton Tower Hosel. Mr Lawrence Landau, president, was in the chair.

#### Meeting Royal Institute of International

Ms Rita Fan, President of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs beld yesterday at Chatham House. Professor Michael Yahuda

### **Forthcoming** marriages

Mr O.S.M. Crowther

and Miss J.K. O'Hare The engagement is announced between Oliver, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Crowther, of Poynings, Sussex, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerry O'Hare, of Portslade, Sussex.

Mr J.H. Davies and Miss J.B. Humberston The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Ars V.W.H. Davies, of Bargoed, Laerphilly, and Joanna, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.W. Humberston,

of Epping, Essex. Mr J.D.E. Dixon

and Mrs H. de Charles
The engagement is announced and
the marriage will take place
shortly between Julian Dixon and
Hobblette de Charles.

Mr M. Fontein and Miss R. Smith The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Dr and Mrs Bart Fontein, of Haariem.

Holland, and Rebecca, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Timothy Smith, of Reading, Berkshire. Captain M.C. Gidlow-lackson and Miss S.L. Edmonds The engagement is announced between Captain Mark Gidlow-Jackson. The Devonshire and

Dorset Regiment, son of the late Mr and Mrs Charles Gidlow-Jackson, and Lucy, daughter of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Michael Edmonds, of Trichfield, Hampshire. Mr A. Hiorth

and Miss L.M. Denison The engagement is announced between Anders, son of Mr and Mrs Sven-Gunnar Hjorth, of Taby, Sweden, and Lucinda Mary. daughter of Mr Michael Denison, of Soberton, Hampshire, and Mrs Michael Poland, of Upham, Hampshire.

Mr D.P. Hodgkins and Miss S.F. Smith

The engagement is announced between Dean, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hodgkins, of Deal, Kent, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Smith, of Woking, Surrey. Mr A.J. Kasket and Miss E.P. Rudwell

The engagement is armounced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs Harold Kasket, of West Hamp-stead, London, and Elaine, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs George Rudwell, of Jeffersonville, Indiana,

#### Birthdays today

Kellett-Bowman, MEP, 68; Vice-Admiral Sir Roderick Macdonald, artist, 78; Dr Harvey McGregor, QC. former Warden, New College, Oxford, 73: Mr Hector MacKenzie, trade unionist, 59; Mr Robert Neame, brewer, 65; Major-General Sir Laurence New, 67; Sir Roger Parker, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 76: Mr George Paul, chair-man, Norwich Union, 59; Lord Pulmam, 58; Lord Sempill, 50; Lieutexant-Colonel J.R. Stephenson, former secretary, MCC, 68; Professor Sir Slewart Sutherland, FBA, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, FBA. Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Edinburgh University, 58; Mr A.C.F. Verity, former Master, Dul-wich College, 60: Sir Ian Wallace, company chairman, 83; Dr G.B. Warren, biochemist, 51; Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, former Clerk of the Parliaments, 65; Marshal of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson, 71.

### Mr C.J. Roes-Williams and Miss C.E.C. Mikhailoff The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of the late Mr Geoffrey

Rees-Williams and of Mrs Rees-Williams, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Mikhailoff, of Seven-Mr S.E. Thomas and Miss V.K. Hunt

The engagement is announced between Scott Edwin, son of Mr and Mrs Edwin Roosevelt Thomas, of St Louis, Missouri, and Victoria Katharine, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Hunt, of Easton Hall, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Mr T.D.B. Treacher and Miss M.L. Davies The engagement is announced between Toby, only son of Admiral Sir John and Lady Treacher, of 22 Newton Road, London W2, and

Melissa, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Roger Davies, of Colchester, Mr N.J. Trotter

and Miss S.J. Estcourt The engagement is announced between Neil, elder son of Mr and

netween Neil, elder son of Mr and Mrs Norman Trotter, of Wallington, Surrey, and Suzannah, elder daughter of Mr Adrian Estcourt, of Chiddingfold, Surrey, and Mrs Judy Estcourt, of Menethorpe, Malton, Yorkshire.

Mr R.P. Wachman
and Miss M.M. Weightman
The engagement is announced
between Robert, only son of Mr
and Mrs Nicholas Wachman, of Cionbullogue, Co Offaly, Ireland, and Madeleine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Weightman.

of Old Burdon, Co Durham. Mr W.A.W. Weightman and Miss C.R. Scott The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs Simon Weightman, of Old Burdon, Co Durham, and Catherine, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Thomas Scott, of Hepscott,

#### Marriage

Lord Mowbray and Stourton and Joan, Lady Holland
The marriage of Lord Mowbray and Stourton and Joan, Lady Holland has taken place quietly in Warwickshire, Dom Aidan Bellenger officiated, assisted by

Miss Jane Ackroyd, aculptor, 42; Miss Elike Brooks, singer, 54; Mr Tom Courtenny, actor, 62; Lord Crickhowell, 65; Sir Antony Duff, former diplomat, 79; Sir Alex Gordon, architect, 82; Mr George Harrison, musician, composer and film producer, 56c Mr Edward

#### **Anniversaries**

Pather Mortimer Loftus.

BIRTHS: Pierre Renoir, Impressionist painter, Limoges, France. 1841; Enrico Caruso, tenor, Naples, 1873; John Foster Dulles, American statesman, Washington DC, 1888; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, London, 1890. ATHS: Ro

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Earl of Essex, soldier and countier, executed in London, 1601; Sir Christopher Wren, architect, Loncian, London, 1805; Paul Julius von Reuter, founder of the news agency, Nice, 1890; Sir John Tenniel, illustrator and cartoonist, London, 1914; Tennessee Williams, play-wright, New York, 1983. Queen Elizabeth I was excommuni-

cated by Pope Pius V. 1570. Paper currency, known as "green-backs", was introduced in the United States by President Abraham Lincoln 1867

Andrew Johnson, 17th American President 1865-69, was impeached (acquitted in May), 1868. The first Anderson bomb shelter to be built in Britain was erected in an Islington garden, 1939.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

#### PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

### If you repay good with evil, you will never get evil out of your house. Proverbs 17.13 (GNB). BIRTHS

Philippa (née Wahlen) a daughter, Rebocca Harris Amelia, sister to William and Oliver

ERESFORD - On February 9th 1999, to Royalind (née Burbridge) and Richard, a son, Montgomery Charles Delaval. CAHEL WELSTEAD - On February 23rd 1999 at St Mary's Hospital, London, to Verity and Michael, a beautiful daughter, Grace Finty, a sister for Hannah HOOPER - On 19th February 1999, to Sophie ince Bird) and Charles, a daughter, Rosie Tabitha Jane.

HOUSE - On 22nd February 1999, to Jane (pre Spencer

LYONS - On February 17th, to Sophio into Pilcher) and Seamus, a daughter, Katherine Thirty Flora Coelly, a sister for Otto and Milo. PERS - On 18th February, to Anthony and Nichola Inse Heywood-Loundale, a daughter.

WADDLOVE - On February 15th 1999, to Annie inée Denni and Jake, a son, Toby Douglan, e brother for Joshua. WILLIAMS - On 15th February at Cheises and Westminster Hospital, to Gail (186e de la Rue) and Don, a son, Angus Scott, a brother for Ella.

DEATHS BERGER - John, Passed pescefully away at the Nuffield Hospital, Taunton, on Saturday, kh February aged 88. eunited with Alison, Ans Resulted with Alison, Ana and John, Funeral Service will be held at Taunton Deane Crematorium on Monday, 1st March at 2pm Donations may be sent to E. White & Soo, Funeral Directors, 138-139 East Reach, Taunton, for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Simbridge, Classosterphics

# DEATHS

BOWDEN - Victor Edward.
DFC and Ber. FRCO
(CHID. ADCM. LRAM.
Died 20th February 1999.
Requiem Mass at The
Church of The Sacred
Heart, Norton Road, Hove
on Monday Ist March at
3pm. Tesu mercy, Mary
pray: Private cremation.
No Bowers. Donations for
The Royal College of
Organist's may be sent to
Christopher Stringer
Funeral Services. 67, High
Street, Rottingdean. East
Sussess. 892 7HE. Tal:
01273-300000.

BROWN - See Gordon-BUSTON - (Née Brooks)
Louise Philippe Bennett
aged 46 on 19th February
Devoted wife of the late

Devotes whe of the late George and much loved sister of Richard and Susan. Sedly missed by many friends. Service to be held on Friday 25th February 12 noon at St Nicolas Church. Cranleish. Survey. Cranleigh, Survey.
followed by a private
committal. All enquiries t
Pimms Funeral Service.

(01483) 274079.
COCKERIL - Mary, 44 years, after a short illness, on 19th Pebruary, Beloved mother of Monique and sister of Devid and Peter. Funeral at 10,30 on Tuesday, 2nd March at Worth Abbey, near Crawley, Soussez. The coffin will be piaced in the Abbey Church from 1730 on Monday, 1st March. All are welcome in pay their respects. Donations please, in lieu of flowers, for the Julius Uganda Appeal Fund, Worth Abbey.

Fund, Worth Abbey.
COOK - Pescafully on 23rd
February after a gallant
struggle, Captain Edward
Lewis (Gerald) D.S.C., RN.
Rtd. Husband of the late
Diana and of Kay, widow
of the late Commander
E.F. Langer. Father of
Rossmary and stepfather
of Keith. Funeral Service
at Sternfield Church,
Suffolk on Priday 5th
March at 11.30 am
followed by private March at 11.20 am followed by private cremation. Family flower only, but donations if desired made psyable to The Mission to Seemen c. Tony Browns Funeral Service, Seammanham, Suffolk IP17 1DJ.

COOPER - On Thursday
February 18th 1999, Joan,
formerly of Wytherton and
latterly of Meadowcroft.
Cambridge. Sadly missed
by all her friends and
expecially Jean Smith of
Crossway Gardens.
Trumpington, Cambridge.
Service is to be at St
Mark's Church, Barton
Road, Cambridge, on
March 3rd at 12 noon.
Family flowers only, but
donations for The
Samaritans Cambridge
Branch, may be sent in
Brian Warner Funeral
Service, 4 Harshel Court,
Hartington Grove.

DACK - Walter Sydney Dack, 90, Leoington, Kentucky, USA, died Sunday, February 21st, 1999 at St Joseph East Hospital, Born October 31st, 1908 in London, England, he was a son of the late George and Lillian Godfrey Dack. His beloved wife of 58 years, Clare pessed away in June 1996. He worked in an

He worked in an engineering capacity in the British componies. AEC and Thornyeroft during the 1930's and 1930's, and was intimately involved in the development of the London doubledeck buses During World War II he worked in the Department of Tank Design to England before coming to the United States in 1947 to work for White Motor Company in Cleveland. OH. He took the position of North American sales engineering represents the of North American sales engineering representative with the British company, Lucas Electrical Services in 1952 and remained with them until his retirement in 1973. He spent most of his retirement years in Sun City, AZ before moving to Lexisarion in November City, AZ belere moving to Lexington in November 1988 to be close to his only child, Susphen Dack and his wife, Judy Eskaw Dack. He was an avid flyer from his early days in England when he flow biplanes in the 1930's. No services are planned. Kerr Brothers Funeral Home in Lexington, Kentucky. USA is in charge of arrangements. Memorials are suggested to one's isvourite charity.

AREY - Harry of Revenuere Ro DARFY - Harry of Ravenmere Road, Redditch, born March 58th 1923, died February 19th 1999 in Selly Oak Hospital 1M.LU.) after a gallant fight following a major operation for ansurysm of the aorta. May be test in peace, grow in love and rise in glory. Beloved husband of Shelia for nearly fifty years, caring

rise in glovy. Beloved husband of Shelis for nearly fifty years, caring father of Keith and the late Richard (1997), grandfather of Enms and Simon, good friend and neighbour who will be sadly missed. Funeral at Redditch Crematorium on Thursday 4th Manch at 2.00pm followed by refreshments at Studley Read Social Club, Redditch. Simple flowers please or donations to be divided between Selly Oak IML U.) and Wildlight and Wetlands Trust
Slimbridge. Please make cheques payable to Huxley Funeral Service. All enquiries in Huxley Funeral Service. 1

red 01527 66661).

FARMEN - Maurice, BCom, FCA, at home on 19th February 1999. Dearly loved. No flowers but donations if desired to Quarries Caring For People, Cusrriers Village. Bridge of Wair. Scotland PA11 35X ret 01605 616000 or 612224). Funeral Service at St Lube's Church, Eardley Road, Sevenneaks on Manday 1st March, 11 um followed by a private buriel. Enquiries to Francis Chappell and Son, Sevenneaks, 01732 450202.

perion - Died February 19th, aged 70, John A French, Funeral 12 noor St Nicholas Church, St Names Charles, Lower Oddington, Tuesday 2nd March. No flower please. Donations if degired to Beistol Canes Help Cantre, Clifton, Bristol BSS 4PC.

DEL - Lily MBE. JP. clad FREE - Lily MBE. JP. Clear suddenly at home on February 17th 1896 aged Sy years. The belowed with of the late W.R.N. Friel 1Millet, mother of the late Frances Iscob, Judy O'Donnell, Tony and the late Tribly, grandmother and great-grandmother. and great-grandum Service at Worcester Service at Worcester No Crimatorium on Friday March 5th at 2 pm. No flowers. Donations if wished to 5t. Ichns Ambulanca, Brossagrove Division c/o 32 Fox Lane. Hill Top, Brossagrove, Wordestershire B61 7NL.

CRES - Alison Frances Zoo, widow of the late A.W.
Bill' Gles and mother of Christopher and Gorden, died on 21st February age 92 Funeral on Tuesday 2nd March at 1 pm at 51.
Andrew's, Gatton (near Merscham), Family Rower only; docations please to Cherchafalls Housing Assessment I of the

GORDON-BROWN Pescefully at Trowbridge
on 24th February in his
92nd year, Dr. George,
one-time medical
superintendent of
Whitecroft Hospital, lale
of Wight Funeral
Directors Barkers, 52
Bond Street, Trowbridge,
Witz.

HARRIAY - Robert Fleming Suddenly but pescafully at home on 8th February aged 75. Much loved husband of Alinon and father of Floma, Glenda, the lais lachal, and Christian. Prood and loving grandfather of Jonathan, Caspian. Edmand, Alexander, Leura, Elemor and Dainy

MARDENG - Richard
Whitfield Harding O.B.E.
On 22nd Fabruary 1999
aged 75 years. Pencefully
in hospital and of
Warrington. The beloved
brother of Beryl, Nancy
and Gwen. Funeral service
at 5t Etphic's Church
Warrington on Tossday
2nd March at 2 pm
followed by cremation at
Walton Lee Crematorium.
Enquiries: Maddecks
Franswal Survice 01925
261803.

Association Housing Association Ltd., c/o Stoneman Funeral Directors, Reigate Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6AZ - 01737 753455.

HITCHCOCK - Disms
Vanghan pescefully at
Hatleys on Eind February
Widow of Robert, towed
mother of Barry and
Simon, grandmother and
great-grandmother bimon, gramouner and great-grandmother. Fineral at the Church of the Holy Cross, Faisted on Tousday March 2nd at 12 notes, Family Downston to Condenses Royal Renewolens to desired to Gardeners Society's/o Benevolent Society c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd. Hasiers Lame, Gt.

RECHEER - Mocke Mary Teres née Egan, formerly of Brent Polham, died peacefully at Margaret House, Barley, Royston on Pobrusry 22nd, aged 50 years. Devoted sister of the late Rev. Father Bernard Egan, S.J. Royston Mass on Tuesday, March 2nd at 10 am at Si Thomas of Canterbury Church. Royston, Hests followed by burial in Hare Street Catholic Cametary. Enquiries to Caul Newling Funeral Director of Royston, tal: 01763 243048.

LAWRANCE - Eloned (Lin)
peecsfully in hospital on
Sunday 21st February.
Formarity of Sarawak and
Coring-ton-Thames.
Widow of Eric, much loved
mother of Peter and
Resembad, Granny of
Chare, Laura, Sally, Oliver
and Joanna and dear sinter
of Elyew Burbeck. Service
of Thanksgring at St
Mary's Church, Scrustiay
al 3 pm on Thursday 4th
March, Donarions in Ben
of Rowers to E.N.L.L. c/o
Woking Finneral Service
Ltd. 121 Goldsworth
Read, Woking GUZI 1LR.

LYLE- Dr. Leonard Gordon.
Donations if decired to:
Shortlands Millsunfrum
Memorial Chapal Fund c/o
E Copeland & Son Funeral
Directors, 9 Bromley Road,
Backenham, Kent BK3
SNT and not as previously
published.

MGPA - Christopher
Gerald, auddenly on
Tuesday 23rd February.
Much loved husband of
Ethabeth, father of
Caroline and Juliet and
grandiather. Service of
Thanksgiving to be held a
St. Mary's, Stondaigh,
Warwickshire at 2pm on
Monday 1st of March.
Family flowers only
please, donations if desire
to Cancer Research, t/o
W. C. Rathbone (Puseral
Directors), 30 Clarendon
Avenue, Learnington Spa.
CVIZ 4RY.

PAYME - On 22nd February siddenly at home in Harrogate, Alice (née Armstrong) aged 85. Befored wife of the late Sir Regimald Withers Pryne and mother of Stephen and the late Haroid. Cremation in Harrowste on and the late Harrord.
Cremation in Harrogate on
Friday 5th March at
3.00pm. Family flowers
only. Donations in lieu to
the RNLL West Quay
Road. Poole, Donat BHI5
1127

PHILIPS - David Chilton (The Lord Phillips of Eliemere KBE FRS) aged 74 on Tuesday 23rd February 1999. Dearly Joved husband of Diane, adored Isthar of Sarah and grandpa to Sammy and inabella, Family funeral at Colders Green Crematorium on Consert Green
Cressatorium on
Wednesday Ird March at
11.30 sm. Family flowers
only please. Donations, if
derired, in the Royal
Mareden Hospital,
London, Memorial Service
to be arranged at a later

ROBERTS - On February
Zhad Doctor Charles Glyn
Roberts MEBS, aged 76.
Husbard of Mengaret,
father of Richerd and Liz
and grandfather of Rive.
Beloved by us all. Private
transation. Thankspiring

Monday 1st March at 2.30pm. No Gowers please Donations for Ward SA Lister Hospital, mode payable to N.M. Marwell 5/o Austins Funeral c/o Austine Puneral Service, 95 Bencroft, Histohin, Herts, SG5 1NQ. Tel 01462 438422

SOUTHWORTH - Sir Frederick, belowed husband, father and grandlather. Peacafully on 22nd February 1999, Deeply leved and greatly missed.

remation. Thanksg

SALMON - Suddenly on 18th February Alice May Salmon aged 84 years. Seloved sister of Burz. Funeral to be held at St Francis of Assist Charch Welvyo Gardon City Hertfordshive at 2 pm on March 4th. Family Ilowers only piece but docations if desired to heabel Hospice Hall Grove Welvyo. Gardon City Hertfordshire AL7 4FH. Engairies to Geo W Blow Church Street Welwyn Herts tel: 01428 714686.

TAYLOR - (nde Doll),
Margaret Marian (Migga).
Died pescafully at home
on Zind February aged 80.
Dearly leved wife of
Oliver, mother of Mary,
Tony, Hillary, Josethan
and Charles. She will be
greatly missed by all her
tetended lemily.
Pellowing a private family
cremation service, there
will hes thanksgiving
service at St Mary's
Church, Thame at 3.30 pm
on Thursday, 4th March,
Donations, if desired
payable to Macmiltan
Cancer Relief, may be sent
to F.J. Wilson, Greenway,
Haddenham, Bucks, HF17

TAYLOR - On 22nd February in a tragic accident Nick aged 15, beloved son of Malcolm and Liz, adcred hrother of Jamie, Katy and Rob and Irlend to many who will miss him deeply. Puneral Service at Christehurch, Esher at L30pm Mondey ist March followed by private burial All friends welcome. A light has gone out. nday let March at

> VERNON - On February Zard percefully at Coxbill Manor, Chobham, Ludy peacefully at Coxhill
> Manor, Chobham, Lady
> Manoy Vernon aged 100,
> much loved mother of
> Michael, grandmother of
> Michael, grandmother of
> Mark and greetgrandmother of Jessica,
> Phoebe and Wilfred.
> Phoebe and Wilfred.
> Phoebe and Wilfred.
> Phoebe and Wilfred.
> Sunninghill, Family
> Howers only please,
> Domations if desired to
> RNL1 c/o Cyril Lovegrove.
> 29C High Street,
> Sunninghill, Berks.

light has gone out.

TEBS - On February 22nd, suddenly at home, Harry Tebh MEZ MSM aged 67, Beloved husband of Brenda (née Runalis).

WATHEY - On 22nd
February, passofully at
Little Court Nursing
Home, Speidhurst, Louise
on the eve of her Sand
birthday, 6 mouths after
her husband, Norman, to
whom she devoted over 60
years. Family and friends
will miss her sadly. Servic
at the Tunbridge Wells
Cremstorium on Tuesday
2nd March at 2.30 pm.
Flowers or donastions in
lies to Imperial Cancer
Flowers or donastions in
lies to Imperial Cancer
Hill Road, Tunbridge
Wells, TN1 1SD.

NATHEY - On 22nd

To place

death notices,

acknowledgements

or notices please call 0171 680 6880

PRIVATE POTTER - Arthur CMG CBE 25th February 1896. In loving memory.

Williams - Pescafully on 21st Fabruary at Camplos Gardens, Rishopston, Swanses, Mail, devoted father of Marilyn and John. Sadly missed by all the family. Resting at St James Funeral Home where a service will be held Tuesday 2nd March at 2 pm followed by interneut at Cyptermouth Cometery 2,45 pm. Pamily internent at Oystermouth
Cemetery 2.45 pm. Family
flowers only please.
Donstions in lieu if so
desired to The National
Trust c/o St James Funers
Home, 31 St James
Gardens, Uplands,
Swanses SA1 6DT.

Williamson OSWALD-ingloby Margaret Am Major, second daughter of Brigadier Ceneral O. C. Williamson Oswald and Meta Carson of Carpalea House, Co Down died pesceduly in her sleep on 19th February. Funeral Service at 2,00pm on 3rd March at Hither Green Crematorium, Verdant March at Hither Green Creunstorium, Verdant Lane, London SEd. Family flowers only, Donations if desired, to the RNIB c/o Francis Chappell and Sons, 5 Thomas Street, Woolwich, SE18. Tel 0181 854 0288.

ZETILER - Ruby Violet (nee Smith) of Botsedale, late of Didlington, Norfolk. Pescafully on Pebruary 21st in her 93th year. Funeral Savice at the West Suffolk Crematorium, Bury St Edmunds on Thursday 4th March at 12 noon. March at 12 noon. Enquiries (01992) 582132. IN MEMORIAM -

BIRTHDAYS MIZARD-B so feetway from ma. Happy Richday, Newer forget. MIC-Comm. THETATOMETE. Love your Plate. ZZX

#### **OBITUARIES**

Derek Nimmo, actor and comedian, died yesterday 6. He was born on September 19, 1932.

erek Nimmo was famous for playing that staple character of suburban farce, the silly ass. He had been a shy and nervous child, and developed an array of odd twitches. But as an adult he was organised, effective, outgoing, shrewd and confident (winning awards, for instance, for after-dinner speaking). Clement Freud said he was "the grandest person I know".

Tall, with a big thatch of dark hair and a distinctive plummy voice, Nimmo was a natural and contented comic. His bumbling, stuttering character first reached a wide audience in the television series All Gas and Gatters, and turned up in innumerable later guises often clerical. He additted that it was hardly

work for a grown man, "pretending to be generals, ambassadors or bishops when your friends really are", but described laughter as "an awfully pleasant noise". And the work was turrative. In Australia he was once paid £20,000 for a single day on the set of Neighbours,

playing an eccentric lord.
For such a very British actor he was surprisingly popular overseas, and was very widely travelled, once visiting 16 countries in 20 days. He described himself as an "ambassador of mirth", and abroad the silly ass walked with kings and nabobs. Because of television, he found he was known wherever he went.

Derek Robert Nimmo was born in Liverpool and went to school in the Lake District and at Quarry Bank School (at the same time as the later co-founder of the SDP, Bill Rodgers, and some years before it was made famous by John Lennon). We used to cycle to school on a sit-up the beg bike, with his toes turned out, looking like the young

51.00Gg

Part of the state

of the Charge

curate he was so often to impersonate. Already happy to make an exhibition of himself, he played several female parts in school plays, before reaching the zenith of his serious acting career as Brutus in Julius Caesar.

Leaving school he briefly followed his father into insurance before doing National Service in Cyprus. After spending 14 days in a monastery he thought about the priesthood, but instead found himself working as a paint salesman. But he wanted to paint the town with rather more flourish, and graduated from amateur dramatics to his first professional stage job at the Hippodrome, Bolton, in 1952, earning £4 a week.

He also worked as a promoter, impresario and. later, director. He organised dances in Penny Lane and Sunday concerts in the days when rock was still paired with roll. Acting as his own billboard, he once walked around Newport wearing an alligator head bearing the legend "See you later, alligator".

After four years in rep. he took the leap to London, living in a caravan, which he found one morning he had parked on a roundabout. For a time he worked for Lew Grade, then a theatrical agent, and was road manager for the singer Al Martino. In his early years in London he showed a touch of eccentricity by living with his family in a caravan. His other assignments at the time included stooging for the ventriloquist Peter Brough and the comedian Arthur

Haynes. He made his London stage debut in 1957 when he took over the part of Gaston in The Waltz of the Toreadors. It was followed by other plays including The Amorous Prawn, The Irregular Verb to Love and Philip King's farce See How They Run in which he played one

of the many dergymen).

All Gas and Gaiters, which began in 1966, was one of the first situation comedies with an ecclesi-



DEREK NIMMO

Derek Nimmo trying on a tie over his dog collar at the time of the series Oh Father! in 1973

astical setting, and Nimmo's bashful curate blended perfectly with a cast that also included William Mervyn as the bishop and Robert-

son Hare as the archdeacon. Other series followed in similar

Father! The series Life Begins at Forty (1978), about a middle-aged couple discovering they are about to become parents, also drew large audiences,

Other series followed in similar vein, notably Oh Brothert, in which Nimmo played a monk, and Oh at the Ome, that kind of light,

ing comedy appeared to be his natural level. He was a natural comic, never the slave of his script. One of his specialioes was taking off his socks and wiggling his rather prehensile loes, with which he once upstaged Bob Hope, and

untaxing and rather undernourish-

which led to the only known acting review in the British Medical Journal.

In his thirties Nimmo had five years in the West End musical Charlie Girl, but he later felt that this had been a waste of his best years. He was also a founding director of the Theatre of Comedy company, which presented popular farces in the West End.

But it was with his company Intercontinental Entertainment that he took comedy shows to dozens of foreign countries, particu-larly in the Far East, spending half the year abroad from the 1970s. "When actors get a contract from me," he said, "they have to buy a map." Occasionally, the location affected the choice of play. In Papua New Guinea, he said, he cancelled There's a Girl in My Soup, "because t thought it might give them ideas".

Working in Hong Kong, he became a keen sailor — in a friend's 45ft ketch — in the China Sea. On his travels he also collected anriques and porcelain to bring back to the elegant house in Kensington which he and his wife bought bit by bit over several decades.

For many years he could be heard as a panellist on Radio 4's Just a Minute, rabbiting his way through 60 unhesitating seconds. His ability to drawl out words with a thoroughly unnatural intonation while thinking desperately of something to say was the envy of many politicians.

Nimmo's television chat show, which started as If It's Saturday, It Must Be Nimmo and was later called Just a Nimmo, ran for seven years during the 1970s. He also had supporting parts in several films, among them The Millionairess. The Amorous Prawn, Casino Royale and One of Our Dinosaurs is Missing. He was the Variety Club's Showbusiness Personality of the Year in 1970.

Immaculately turned out, punctual and good-mannered, Nimmo was affronted when the Bishop of Durham announced his doubts about the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection on the eve of Easter in 1985. Nimmo, who remained a convinced Christian, attacked him as "a heretic", and said that the bolt of lightning that struck York Minster showed that God had a

sense of humour. The following year he donned his own cleric garb once more to play a dithering dean trying to cope with a radical bishop in Hell's Bells. Once when filming another show in St Peler's Square, he was spotted cuddling a blonde by a nun who look offence and had him arrested

by the Varican police. Though he never cooked, he was a daundess gastronome, and while travelling he sampled specialities ranging from bat - "you drink its blood first, and then they grill it"to "witcherty grubs", the delicious larvae of an Australian beetle. which have to consumed while still wriggling. In 1986 his arteries became clogged, and he had a

heart bypass.

He published books about wine, cocktails and travel, and was a convivial and de-wearing member of the Garrick, where he led the opposition to admitting women members. He supported several charities, including the conserva-

tion trust, Care. A keen gardener who said "slugging is my favourite blood sport", he was proud to have won a prize for best window box in London. When the Royal Horticultural Society named a rose after him, he swapped stories with the similarly honoured Dulcie Gray. The notes on his rose said "prone to mildew through it boasts a fine stem"; hers was "not very good for bedding, but fine up against a

He is survived by his wife, Pat whom he met in an amateur production of Hay Fever, and married in 1955 — and by their daughter and two sons.

# SIR ANTHONY NUTTING, Bt

Sir Anthony Nutting, Bt. PC, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, 1954-56, died on February 23 aged 79. He was born on January 11, 1920.

part from Eden him-self, Anthony Nut-ting was the most prominent political casualty of the Suez crisis of 1956, resigning from the Government and from Parliament because he could not defend British policy, and was not property he to the House of Commons or the United Nations. Yet he remained loyally silent for more than ten years. deportment of colleagues who had assented at the collusion with France and Israel over the military assault on Egypt.

Nutting was Minister of State at the Foreign Office" when President Nasser of Egypt nationalised the Suez century Talleyrand" was as-Canal. It must have seemed to surning the mantle of Napole-many in politics that there on, which predictably failed to of civilians. Then, in the Canal. It must have seemed to

could be no one better qualified than he to carry out the policies of a Prime Minister whom he greatly respected and whose career paralleled his own in so many ways. Yet as the crisis developed through the late summer and autumn, he found himself appalled by Eden's determina-

tion to "topple Nasser" and

make him "disgorge" the canal. Eden pursued his plan with single-minded conviction, but to Nutting it seemed an act of lunacy, and as one of the few who were privy to the secret agreement with the Governments of Israel and France for on Egypt, he object ted to a "a disreputable manocuvre" which would "debase our standards of international behaviour and breach the UN Charter. To his horror. he found that the man he had thought of as "Britain's 20th-

He later wrote of the feeling of being suddenly bereft of friends, a castaway adrift on a sea of anger and recrimina-tion, an object of distrust . . . torn between loyalty to princi-ple and loyalty to friends and associates." He was 36, and the political career of one who many had expected to see eventually in Downing Street

was at an end. Harold Anthony Nutting was the youngest of three sons of Sir Harold Nutting, 2nd Baronet, of Quenby Hall, Leicester. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, and at institutions of his own choice in Sofia and Munich After a short period in the Leicester Yeomanry he was invalided out of the Army and joined the Foreign Service. He was in the Paris Embassy when France fell, and assisted in the evacuating

fit. Nutting felt obliged to Madrid Embassy from 1940 to 1944, he organised escape routes for Allied soldiers and airmen.

He contested Melton in Leicestershire at the 1945 election, holding it with a majority of more than 6,000. He was chairman of the Young Conservatives in 1946, vice-chairman of the National Union of man of the Namonal Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations 1947-50, and chairman 1950-51. After the Conservative victory at the 1951 election he was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, and he was promoted to Minister of State and denote to the partial of the second denote to the second second denote to the second se State and deputy to the Foreign Secretary, Selwyn Lloyd, in 1954. As such he led the British delegation to the UN General Assembly and Disarmament Commission in 1954 and 1955. He was a good internationalist, an early enthusiast for British member-

ship of the EEC, and an

effective debater, and was

TRUSTEE ACTS

NUTTICE is hareby given permane to SET of the ERUSTEE Act, 1925 that any persons buring a CLASS against or an ATPENT in the SE TATA of any of the determine and again when means, althousans are descriptions are our relieve in house benefits for any our relieve in

sign's whose minus, singuesses and depocartions are not out? below it hemeby togethed to send particu-lans in welding of his clubbe wit-lesses. It will be passes to previous mentioned in rejustion to the de-cessed passes consumed between the date specified; after which done the entert of the deceased will be distributed by the preven-dance the matter of the deceased will be distributed by the preven-al pervenientatives immag the pre-

beginns of white two; and the posterior of Children 198 Arthur 198

NOTICES

Fax 8171 782 7930

Or Email

often described as the handsomest man in the House. All seemed set fair.

It was negotiation of the agreement by which British troops were withdrawn from Egypt that gave Nutting his first chance to conduct a major diplomatic operation. He and Nasser signed the agreement in Cairo on October 19, 1954. His enemies were later to suggest that he had been seduced by Nasser's charm and that this distorted his judgment at the time of Suez. It was not so. Though he quickly established easy personal relations with Nasser, he remained criocal of him and his policies (a conspirator, not a statesman"). But this experience undoubtedly gave him a dearer insight into the realities of power in the Middle East than those cherished by a Prime Minister who, because of his own background, equated Nasser with Hider and the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company with the occupation of the Rhineland.

The Suez story has been told by many, including both Eden and Nutting. Eden's account. Full Circle, appeared in 1960: Nutting's not until 1967. The reason for his long silence he explained in the preface to No End of a Lesson: "Either I had to tell the whole story as I saw it, or say nothing at all. And as long as any of the chief protagonists of the Suez War still held high office in Britain, it would clearly have been a grave disservice to the nation. which they still led and represented in the councils of the world, to have told the whole

story." But when it became known that Nutting was planning belatedly to publish his account, there was some uneasiness and some resentment. He was accused of breaking the Privy Counsellor's oath, and when advance extracts of the book appeared in The Times. giving for the first ome confirmation from the Bridsh side of the Eden Government's collusion with France and Israel,



Nutting in 1996, forty years after his resignation from the Government over Suez

there were strong demands on all sides for a debate in the Commons. But by 1967 Suez was old news, and by an ironic twist a much more dramaoc explosion occurred in the Middle East just before the book's publication. The Six-Day War, with all its consequences, left nobody any time to bother about Suez.

the reputation of others that led Nuning to delay publicaoon for so long had earlier led him to refrain from the customary resignation speech in the Commons. He showed a draft of his intended statement to Harold Macmillan, "When he had finished reading it, he shook his head and, in solemn and almost funereal tones, he said. This is very damaging. It could easily bring down the Government, and for you, dear boy, it will do irreparable harm.' Then, after pausing for dramaoc effect, he went on. Why say anything at all? You have already been proved right and we have been proved wrong. You have done the right thing by resigning and, if you keep silent now, you will be revered and rewarded. You

will lead the party one day." Whether it was necessary or wise for Nutting also to have resigned his Commons seat must be a matter for speculation. By then, however, his disgust at the way in which the disaster had been organised, the lies and what he saw as the false arguments urged in its justification had left him in no The scrupulous concern for

mood for any other course. He made one unsuccessful attempt to re-enter Parliament, when he contested East Oldham at the 1966 election. But apart from that occasion he remained aloof from politics, and never showed any of the bitterness which he might have been expected to feel at so sudden and total a blasting of all his ambidions. Instead, he concentrated on writing, I Saw for Myself, based on reports, mainly on the Middle East. that he had contributed to American papers, appeared in 1958. Two years later he published Europe Will Not Wait, which argued that Britain was missing the "European bus".

As well as books on The Arabs (1964) and The Scramble for Africa (1970), he wrote a

series of biographies: of T. E. Lawrence in 1961 — having acted as technical adviser for the film Lawrence of Arabia -Gordon (1966) and Nasser (1972). These were all workmanlike productions, written out of fascination with their subjects: he had no need to boil a pot. Later he became an enthusiastic and successful sheep farmer on his Suther-

land estates. He continued to travel widely, particularly in the Arab world, and did much to foster friendship with Arab countries. But he was far from being an uncriocal partisan. He remained what he had always been, an international-

ist and a patriot. Nutting's two older brothers were killed in the war, and he succeeded his father as 3rd Baronet in 1972. He was first married to Gillian, but they divorced in 1959; he then married Anne in 1961, but she died in 1990, and the following year he was married, for a third ome, to Margarita, who survives him, along with the daughter and two sons of his first marriage. His son John now succeeds to the baronetcy.

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WHO ARE THE MIDDLE CLASSES? FROM A CORRESPONDENT. "A man's a man for a' that," but the more or less civilized unit pigeonholes his species under definite designations, in spite of the fact that Western civilization has no exclusive

Our classes, using the phrase as it is understood by the man in the street, are drawn from one another, flowing and interflowing over the wheels of chance. Be that as it may, we have in fact a threefold division into social aggregates. The gentry, the middle class, and the peasantry, and beween these, between the cultured gentle man, the half-cultured commoner, and the non-cultured labourer, stretch very significant gulfs. Conditions, as they are, necessitate this. In manners, in feelings, in morals, in dress, and in learning there is an incatculable disparity, not only of the more or less but in divergent tendencies. What passes with one class as virtue with the other is a delinquency. What may be to the one yoluntary to the other

is obligatory.
But the illusion we find holding the imagination of the public is that these differences are fundamental and stable,

### ON THIS DAY

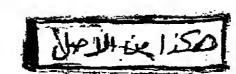
#### February 25, 1920

In this article, the writer ends by saying that you could erect a statue to the labouring class but not one to the middle class, for it is inconceivable to put up a statue for something that is nothing in particular.

instead of superficial and transient; and that classes so divided are inimical to one another. And, peculiarly enough, the least homogene-ous of these have been asking themselves where they begin and where end. In other words, "Who are the middle classes?" They are naturally enough at a loss to answer, and the reason for this is that the middle class, so named, is not a class at all, but a stage. It does not begin and end. It is composed of just the unfinished social entity, and is an intermediate aggregate, always moving from one state to another. No one aspires to be of the middle class! It is not an attainable height because it is no height, but the valley, as it were, between the beginning of man's endeavour, between the new-born god in the rough, looking over the waste of the earth that he is to be master

of, and his finished descendant, a king of men. Moreover, one is not born middle class, as one is born a peasant or a gentleman, because the middle class is not a status but a condition. The tradesman fails to be a gentleman, generally speaking, not because he sells sugar instead of taking rent from the poor, but if he has tacked the opportunity of finish he proceeds to ape the thing he knows that he is not, and therefore becomes a pinchbeck.

The labourer or peasant has no such pretensions. It is not a question of standard, but of real values. His thoughts are upon his labour as a living. He is, as it were, the raw material, not of any class, but of man with his infinite capacities and needs. His failure means death to all, his success prosperity to the world. He is not self-conscious and his brain acts directly, however slowly. He takes no account of public opinion, because public opinion can do nothing for him. If he puts on a bright kerchief to go a-wooing he does not assume it as a hallmark of his gentility. If he wears a black coat on Sundays he does so because it is the regalia of ceremony, never a sign of his respectability, but of his capacity for respect . . .



# THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25 1999

# NEWS

Blair mounts assault on racism Radical changes in the law to cut racism out of British public life were announced by the Government yesterday as the report on the Stephen Lawence murder inquiry was published. The Prime Minister promised the most far-reaching reform of

race relations laws in 30 years and a drive to end the "canteen culture" in the police forces. Mr Blair also gave his personal backing to Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner ... ...Pages 1-3, 13-17

#### Second avalanche hampers rescue

The race to rescue victims in the Austrian ski resort of Galtür was hampered when a second avalanche bore down on a neighbouring Tyrolean village. Yesterday's avalanche crashed through Mathon, about a mile from Galtur, where 16 bodies have been recovered after Tuesday's avalanche....... Pages 1, 5

#### **Derek Nimmo dies**

The comedy actor Derek Nimmo, a veteran of Radio 4 shows such as Just a Minute; died yesterday

### Third World beckons

A crisis in job satisfaction and Britain's "workaholic" culture are behind the rapidly increasing number of people volunteering to work in the Third World, a new survey suggests ......Page 6

#### Passengers protest

Five regular train users will today lead a protest over railway standards at the first public railway summit. The passengers will address a London conference called by John Prescott..... ..... Page 8

#### Nazi terrors revealed

An elderly Jewish man has told the Old Bailey how he and his family hid in a narrow pit and decided to commit suicide rather than be rounded up by the Nazis, who had already massacred 2,900 people .... ....Page 9

#### Marriage split

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild and his wife of 25 years are to separate. Sir Evelyn married the American-born Victoria Schott in New York in 1973......Page 9

12 Double rm.? (6).

ance (10).

13 Deck soldiers used to call no

trumps (8).
15 Old character sounding like Wackford Squeers (4). 16 Unmanageable ringleader in

works is behind the engineers

18 Editorials with informed guid-

Dental filling breaking off (8).

24 Singer ordered to stop perform-

Solution to Puzzle No 21,035

21 English-style college (4).

Gay drama attacked Queer As Folk, a new television drama with graphic underage homosexual sex scenes, has been condemned by viewers' organisations and gay groups...... Page II

George faces critics Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, was confronted by protestors in Tyneside after refusing to apologise for say-

ing that job losses in the region

#### Kosovo talks end

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that the 17 days of talks on Kosovo without an agreement "has not ended in a fudge, because it has not ended"... Page 18

#### Clinton 'rape' aired

Americans were finally given the chance to see and hear the woman who has accused President Clinton of raping her more than 20 years ago... ... Page 19

#### Spain short of bulls A ban on fighting bulls infected

with BSE being exported from Portugal has left Spain's toreros short of quality animals to kill this season.... ....Page 19

#### Israeli retreat urged

Calls for Israel to pull out from occupied south Lebanon have reached a crescendo following this week's killing of three elite paratroop officers.....Page 20

### Nigerians go to polls Next weekend 40 million voters

#### Houdini cannot escape film festival

The escapologist Harry Houdini's one attempt to break into films has been discovered. The Man From Beyond, a 70-minute silent feature telling the story of a man who comes back to life after being frozen for 100 years, was made in 1922 but soon disappeared. A copy of the acetate film has been restored and will be shown at the Bradford Film Festival in March......Page 11



Princess Alexandra visits the Olympia Spring Fair in London, where more than 200 paintings by Augustus John are on show until Sunday

FTSE soars: The London stock market soared to record highs as the Government's euro plans and a stream of strong company results pushed the FTSE 100 index to its highest closing level......Page 29 M&S directors: Marks & Spencer is getting rid of three directors, including the great-grandson of its founder Michael Marks, and 28 senior executives .... ..... Page 29

Egg success: Prudential Corporation has shelved plans to take over a bank or building society because of the success of Egg. its new telephone savings account ..... Page 29 Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 152.4 points to 6307.6. The pound fell 1.24 cents to \$1.5987 and 0.35p against the euro to 68.51p. The sterling index fell to 101.0...... Page 32

Footbatt: Plans for a biennial World Cup have been put on the back burner as Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, backed down on his proposals ......Page 56

Tennis: Former Wimbledon cham-

Madrid after the Spanish club dis-

missed Guus Hiddink...... Page 52

to withdraw from the Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea Park. The German, suffering from a viral infection, was replaced by compatriot Rainer Schuttler...... Page 53 Rallying: Richard Burns, the Britisb driver, is hoping to repeat the success he recorded last year in the gruelling Safari Rally which begins ..... Page 50 Football: John Toshack has been installed for a second reign at Real

Deflant Oprab: Oprah Winfrey may have been disappointed by the reception Americans gave her new film Beloved, but she is still proud that she brought Toni Morrison's novel to the screen ...... Page 38 pion Boris Becker has been forced New films: Terrence Malick's The Thin Red Line is a movie that may change for ever the way war movies are viewed; You've Got Mail reunites the dream team of Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks......Page 39 Dancing visitors: Pacific Northwest Ballet presents a programme

> ler's Wells, but most of it disap-..... Page 40 Difficult drama: Birmingham Rep stages Fay Weldon's satirical play. The Four Alice Bakers, which proves to be problematic ... Page 41

of American choreography at Sad-

Cold call: "I grew up on Cape Cod. Something about the ocean, the water's edge, is arctic in feel. Sea and sky and endless merging: I love the ice and snow and cold." Andrea Barrett talks about her novel of polar exploration.... Dr Thomas Stuttaford: The benefits of HRT; drugs that cause men to grow breasts; outbreaks of brain disease in goats; rest is no cure for a

Cyber-dip: A substitute for religion or a realm of violent fantasy? Sadie Plant dips into cyberculture. Plus, reviews by Jeremy Reed, Karen ...Pages 42, 43

bad back

## Private healthcare: Why the indus-

try is undergoing an expensive and forced change... ..... Pages 44, 45

#### Best buys: Walking weekends in British beauty spots; three nights in Vienna for about £300; blue whale watching off Mexico...... Page 48

and illiterate, has agreed that the problem of Nigeria is that of leadership, not economic. One wonders why it has taken us so long to find a

true leader for ourselves. Post Express, Nigeria

#### Preview: Ramsay's Boiling Point (Channel 4, 9pm) follows the top London chef in his quest for a third Michelin star. Review: Thigh-high, leopard skin boots with fire inch sti-letto heels . . . for men? Joe Joseph's not convinced ...... Pages 54, 55

#### The Lawrence legacy

Emotion, however noble, must not be allowed to sweep every other consideration from its path. The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report makes 70 recommendations, many overdue, but not all wise ... Page 25

#### **Arts of Brussels**

On Tuesday Tony Blair held out his "vision" of a European Union facing up to the "realities of global commerce". Today that vision comes up against another reality the damage done to British commerce by ill-founded EU regula-Page Z

#### Selective memory

The Foreign Office, savaged for its shoddy lines of communication with Britain's High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, now appears to have had all too close contact with the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee......Page 25

#### ANATOLE KALETSKY

Mr Blair's ringing declaration for EMU could one day be remembered as the apogee of a political career which seemed to enjoy divine protection to that point......Page 24

#### **MAGNUS LINKLATER**

Those who live on the land are no longer to be encouraged to produce more. They are to become guardians of the countryside ...... Page 24

#### TIM HAMES

These are all reasons why the Home Secretary should not sack Sir Paul. They are also the reasons why the Metropolitan Police Commissioner should submit his resig-... Page 24

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Sir Anthony Nutting, Bt, PC, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Clive Butler, consulting surgeon to the London Hospital; Richard Allen, painter and teacher .... Page 27

Blair's "change of gear" on euro; demolition of historic Oxford house: democratic freedoms in Zimbabwe; personalised car numberplates; BBC drama.

## will go to the polls and attempt to end the military rule which has controlled Nigeria for all but ten years of more than three decades since independence.......Page 21 THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,036

# TOMORROW

#### IN THE TIMES

#### ■ MEDIA

'We don't want more tears." Trevor McDonald prepares for the last News at Ten

#### EDUCATION

How exam pressure can lead children as young as seven to revolt against the process and perform badly

Changes to the chart below from noon: lows H and I will remain slow-moving, with little change in pressure. High O will remain stationary

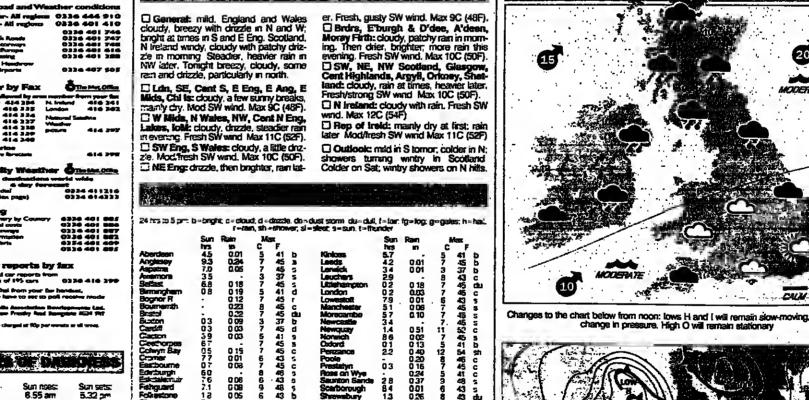


The fee rule package 3.6 21.45 10.4 14.42 3.0 19.16 9.8 14.28 4.5 13.17 3.7 19.54 4.3 12.48 3.0 20.16 3.5 19.31 4.6 18.36 7.6 14.01 7.3 13.43 5.2 14.14 4.6 22.54 9:06 1:52 6:33 1:38 0:30 6:13 7:21 0:01 7:18 6:45 5:54 1:06 0:52 7:12 19:15 21:42 17:26 19:47 14:02 13:02 14:40 12:24 14:04 19:39 19:13 19:12 14:03

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Car reports by fax

2 Diamond-shaped tablet is a success (11).

of power (7).

6 Do a turn badly in the circular hall (7).

chest (5). 14 Reading between the lines, it's relatively small (6.5).

17 Rearrest university who's in charge of funds? (9). 19 Sat on throne, but came down to speak (7).

20 Alter the sequence for each non-speaking actor (7).
22 Taking part in Swiss ambassa.

dor's dance (5). 23 Tender proposal (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 56

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ACROSS ing work (6).

I Weak man. penniless, runs to 25 Makin' a mess of spongy cake **ACROSS** 7 Card game turned into habit 26 in which the members of a school are clearly on display (8). 27 Divine measure in which 10 Display, for example, a musi-Gray's elegy was written (4). cal box (8). 11 Gypsy's fiddle (6).

28 Cast down, then raised anew

3 Paper is picked up here in the street (4-5). Clergyman protecting a source

5 Don't go to pot - stay on the straight and narrow (4.3.3.5).

FREE BOOKS g Cause resentment, missing opening of low-down joint (5).
9 Split right in the middle of FOR SCHOOLS

This week you get double tokens in *The Times*. For you

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second token, see page 30. FREE DOKS **VALKER** 

Arts, page 38

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25 1999

Sterling suffers as City gambles on government plans for EMU

# FTSE reaches record heights



Feb Mar Apr May Jun. Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Fet

THE stock market surged to a record high while the pound slumped to a 16-month low against the dollar yesterday as traders gam-bled that the Government's plans to join the single cur-rency would prompt further

The FTSE t00 index of leading shares closed up 152.4 points at 6,307.6 a new all-time closing high. Earlier, shares touched a new intra-day peak

The market was also reassured by a string of strong cor-porate results and special dividends, while shares in companies such as Glaxo Wellcome. which have substantial exposure in the US, were boosted by the pound's decline against the dollar.

Wall Street enjoyed a solid opening after Alan Greenspan. Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said little in his second day of Humphrey-Hawkins By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

Greenspan repeated his view that the US economy is "going flat out but predicted that consumption and investment growth are set to slow, easing fears that the Fed may be forced to raise interest rates to curb inflationary pressures.

Dr Greenspan added that he had no problem if any country wished to "unilaterally" adopt the US dollar as its currency. However, he insisted that US monetary policy could be set for the US alone and that the Fed would oppose any plans to make the Fed "a lender of last resort outside the US". Earlier this year, Argentina floated a plan to adopt the dollar as its currency to help prevent a repeat of the financial crisis that has swamped neighbouring Brazil in the past few months.

In New York the Dow Jones had climbed 30 points by hunchtime. European shares also recorded modest gains. The dollar continued its re-

record high of \$1.0927 against the euro, before the euro made a partial recovery. Anti-euro sentiment in the markets was heightened by a a statement from Allianz, the German insurer, which is threatening to transfer much of its business abroad if the German Government proceeds with costly tax



The pound, however, suffered an even more dramatic fall, tumbling more than I per cent against the dollar to fall below \$1.60 for the first time since September 1997. The

ing from 68.16p to 68.51p. Traders said that Tony Blair's National Changeover Plan, announced on Tuesday. had been far more pro-EMU than anticipated and that the market was now looking to move the pound towards its expected EMU entry level. As a result, the market's are anticipating that sterling will lose ground both against the euro, and against the all-conquering

pound closed down more than

one cent at \$1,5978 and lost

ground against the euro fall-

Earlier in the day. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, attempted to ease market fears over the extent of the economic slowdown, insisting that the odds remain in the first half of this year. He

added that the economy is likety to return trend or even above trend growth later this

Mr George, who was making his first visit to the North East since sparking outrage by apparently suggesting that unemployment in the North was a "price worth paying" for low inflation, also rejected claims that the Bank of England does not care about unem-

We are not in the business of sacrificing jobs to bring in-flation down, we are in the business of keeping inflation down to create jobs and higher living standards," he said.

tn a speech given to businessmen at the Newcastle Civ-Centre, the Governor added that high employment and low inflation "are more like love and marriage - you can't have one without the other, at least for very long."

> Commentary, page 31 Stock market, page 32

# M&S axes 31 top jobs as new chief starts HQ cull

By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent

THREE directors of Marks & . chief executive late last year af-Spencer are to leave the troubled retailer, including the great-grandson of the compa-

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. KJ # . 1

A further 28 senior executives are also to go in the first wave of redundancies to hit its Baker Street head office in London tince 1991. The jobs of hundreds less senior staff are expected to go in the next few weeks.

The head office staff of 4,000 have anxiously awaited details of a threatened shake-up since the company issued a profits warning earlier this year after a disastrous winter season. The cull is the first move by Peter Salsbury, who succeeded Sir Richard Greenbury as

ter a bitter boardroom battle. Chris Littmoden, one of the directors who is leaving the comfor the chief executive's job.

The scale of the cuts was unexpected and has led to fears that 400 or more jobs could go further down the ranks. M&S said more redundancies were possible, but refused to say: how many. The company says it is committed to staying in its

M&S is setting aside £10 million to cover payoffs to the 31. executives who have lost their jobs so far. This sum will also cover compensation paid to Keith Oates, the former depu-

ty chairman who agreed to take early retirement after a failed bid to lead the company. Mr Oates is thought to have received up to £2 million, al-though full details of his pay-off will only be released in the

annual report in late June. The three directors who are to take early retirement are Derek Hayes, 50, who has been in charge of European opera-tions; Mr Littmoden, 55, who has been running the American in charge of information technology and logistics. Under the company's early retirement scheme, they could receive the whole of their salaries up until the official retirement age of 60.

Mr Sacher, who is a greatgrandson of Michael Marks. is the last member of the founding family to be an executive director. David Seiff, another descendant of the founder, remains on the board as a nonexecutive director. The board will still have 16 members. with nine executive and seven non-executive directors.

The departure of Mr Littmoden has heightened speculation that M&S will sell its US businesses, Brooks Brothers and Kings Super Markets. although the company insisted that no moves were imminent. It is still possible that M&S will open branches of Brooks Brothers, which specialises in

preppy menswear, in Europe. Sir Richard Greenbury, who remains as non-executive chairman but was replaced by Peter Salsbury as chief executive after a boardroom rumpus late last year, said: "I restructured the management when I took over in 1991 and the company then enjoyed seven years of strong growth. The changes announced today by our new chief executive not only respond to a rapidly changing ento be better focused and thus

Commentary, page 31

move strongly forward again." M&S shares closed up 19%p bank base rate

# Pru acquisition plan shelved

MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

PRUDENTIAL Corporation last year, is expected to cost a has shelved plans to take over a bank or building society be-

cause of the success of Egg, its new telephone savings account. Sir Peter Davis, chief executive of Prudential, said yesterday that Egg had collected deposits of £3 billion in its first five months, well above its ini-tial target of £5 billion over five years. Egg now has 250,000 customers, compared with the 100,000 it had origi-

nally aimed to attract. Egg was launched in October as a low-cost operation for customers who are happy to the Internet. It guarantees to pay 0.5 per cent above the

Egg and Prudential Banking, the company's other deposit account, cost £77 million

further £100 million this financial year, but could make a small profit by 2001.

Prudential unveiled a 3 per cent rise in operating profit from continuing operations to £860 million for 1998 and confirmed that it was "seriously considering" a listing in the United States. Listing as "Jackson National Life" - the name of Prudential's US businesses was "one of the options".

Profit before tax, including actual investment returns, fell to £1.14 billion (£1.17 billion) despite a £249 million exceptional profit on the disposal of the group's businesses in New Zealand and Australia. The total dividend increased by 10 per cent to 21p per share.

Commentary, page 31

### **Business Today**

All change at Baker Street 31 Stock Market: Blue chips surge Equity prices:



#### Graham Searjeant

on his fears for a puritan Budget Page 33

FTSE ton 6307.5 (+152.4) 2.53%

US RATE

LONDON MONEY

STERLING

NORTH SEA OIL



# New issue fee rules in reform package

By PAUL DURMAN

 THE long-running investigation into the City fees charged for underwriting new share issues has ended with a package of only minor reforms.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, lent his backing to a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that found some companies had to pay higher fees because pf the "complex monopoly" that existed among City banks and brokers.

In future, investment banks will have to tell companies of alternatives to the tradioonal system of underwriting which involves standard fees totalling 2 per cent of the amount of money raised. If companies fail to take advantage of alternatives, such as putting subunderwriting out to tender, the London Stock Exchange will require them to

explain why to their shareholders. Mr Byers also backed the MMC's recommendation that the Bank of England should publish guidance to encourage the use of tendering and the pricing of share issues at a deep discount to the prevailing market price. However, the Treasury is resisting changes to capital gains tax to remove an obstacle to deer ... scounting.

# Game on as EB eyes up its rival

By CHRIS AYRES

THE computer games industry prepared itself for some real-life action yesterday when Electronics Boutique, the specialist video and computer games retailer, admitted that it was considering swallowing up Game, its arch-rival.

The deal will put a value of at least £76 million on Game, leaving Neil Taylor, its chief executive, sitting on a stake worth at least £16.6 million. However, industry sources said yesterday's bid could spark an auction for Game, which has 83 stores, with the . . . ctrical

retailer Dixons likely to enter the fray through its new @Jakarta software and games subsidiary.

The bid approach comes after a tough lew months for Game, which recently issued a profits warning. It is understood that Game was

forced to issue yesterday's announcement after its shares rose 27 per cent to 1304p. Electronics Boutique - which has a market value of £228 million also put out a statement, saying the deal would go ahead only if it was in shareholders' best interests. Both companies emphasised that talks were in very preliminary stages".



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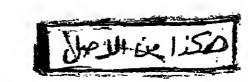
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### **Investors** snub on-target **AMP**

By Paul Armstrong

AMP, the recently listed Australian financial servicrealities of stock market life yesterday when its shares were marked down 3.6 per cent even though its profits met market forecasts.

AMP unveiled a A\$1.03 billion (£396 million) net operating profit for 1998, comfortably above the forecast range of A\$774 million to A\$977 million in Isa April prospectus and in line with analysis' expectations.

However, investors cut its share price by 71 cents to A\$19.19 on the Australian share market. Dealers attributed this to vains in the shares in the past week and late hopes that the company would exceed forecasis.

AMP's bottom line was cut to a A\$646 million toss after it booked a widely expected A\$1.57 billion extraordinary charge relating to costs of last year's demutualisation and flotation. An 18 cent dividend was de-

clared for the year.

AMP derives about half its earnings from UK interests, including Henderson, the fund manager, and Pearl Assurance, It has also agreed to the £2.7 billion purchase of NPI.

#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

	Bar+.	Sant
	Buys	Sels
Australia S	2.62	2,45
Austra Sch	21 05	19.39
Pelgram Fr	61.93	57.02
Canada S	2,515	2.327
Cydrus Cvp £	0.8882	0.8167
Denmark kr	11 43	10.54
₹₽J₽1	5.66	5.05
Forland Milk.	9.22	9.47
France Fr	10 03	9.25
Germany Dm	3.013	2.771
Greece Dr	496	457
Hong Kong S	13 21 128	12.01
icelard	128	108
Indonesia	17703	12703
Ireland Pt	1.2022	11132
Israel Shir	6.84	6.18
Italy Lura	2997	2760
Japan Yen	209.52	191.99
Maha	0 6-55	0.608
Nemerius Gid	3.402	3.107
tiew Zealand S	3.14	2.91
CHOCKEY FY	13.72	12.28
Portugal Esc	304,73	282.70
S Africa Rd	10.53	9.57
Spari Pta Sweden kr	253.98 13.82	235.19 12.73
Switzerland Fr	2475	2.257
Turke, Lita	585953	547006
US3 \$	1.704	1.561
05- 0	1.704	2.301

THE



# Debt provisions triple at Standard Chartered

BY CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

serve as ammunition as the 8&B pre-

pares to fight a conversion resolution

However, the B&B did not disclose

how much of its profit came from Mortgage Express and Black Horse Agencies, its acquired businesses.

which are not run as mutual operat-

million members will vote in April.

STANDARD Characted, the international banking group. yesterday revealed a sharp fall in profits, as its had debt provi-sions nearly tripled, to £436 million because of the economic turmoil in the Far East.

Profits slid by 22 per cent to £703 million from £870 million in 1997. The provisions included £386 million in the Asia-Pacific region, and a further general provision of £50 million.

Rana Talwar, the new group chief executive, said he expected this year to be equally tough for the bank. He said: This year will be another challenging

By Susan Emmett

THE Bradford & Bingley Building

Society, which is fighting the pro-

flotation lobby, yesterday asserted that

mutuality works as it unveiled a 37 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to

£128.5 million. plus the return of £110

million to members. The results will

the economic environment in our major markets is unlikely to improve dramatically.

"There will be continuing uncertainty and I do not expect significant growth to resume this year." he added. in Malaysia, for example, the bank revealed that it had nonperforming loans of \$185 million and had made provisions of 564 million. In Thailand and Indonesia, nonperforming loans totalled 1208 million, while non-

perfurming loans in Singapore reached £197 million. In Hong Kong, where Standard Chartered generates the majority of its revenue, trading profit fell by 9 per cent to £257 million. Revenue rose by 6 per cent to reach £640 million. while non-performing loans reached £170 million. In the UK, trading profit fell from 594 million to 555 million

While admitting that the bank still faced problems in Asia. Mr Talwar laid out his future plans. He was keen to point out that Standard was willing to boost its core businesses through acquisition.

He admitted that the bank

had held talks with BankAmer-

ica about buying up its Far

B&B's results seen as aid to mutuality

after Year 2000 costs of £76

Eastern operations. He also confirmed the bank had looked at acquiring UBS's trade finance arm. Mr Talwar has initiated two

projects aimed at restoring growth. He said: "We will take a fresh look at the company with the aim of re-engineering and standardising all our acovities. The project will focus on improving productivity and customer service. Second, we will upgrade our management information systems."

The total dividend rises to 2014p a share from 18.5p, with a final 14 p. The shares rose 22p to \$3212p yesterday.

Britain for

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GENERAL MOTORS, the US

car firm that owns Vauxhalt.

has chosen the UK rather than

Germany for a new research

The 55 million facility, to focus on van-making research

and development of recreationat four-wheel drive vehicles.

will be based near Bedford

and will employ 75 people. General Motors had previous-

ly said that all its European research would be based in

Germany, where its main

Vauxhall said the UK was

chosen for the centre because

it would work closely with pro-

duction of the Frontera. Nick

Reitly, its chairman, said:

The new centre will make a significant contribution to the

engineering of both current

and future tight commercial

and recreational vehicles for sale in international markets."

days after Mr Reilly warned of

the perils of investing in Britain if it stays outside the euro.

The announcement comes

Commentary, page 31

R&D operations are based.

and development operation.

R&D unit

had performed ahead of expectations,

but emphasised that most growth had

Net residential mortgage lending grew by 71 per cent. to £1.2 billion. a

market share of 4.6 per cent. Savings

come from the rest of the group.

ions. The B&B, which bought Black Horse from Lloyds TSB for £58 mil-pushing reserves past £1 billion, an in-

GM selects Nissan and

### **Profits at** CGU cut back by weather

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MASSIVE storm and flood claims have hadly affected profits at CGU, the UK's largest composite insurer, but the group's full-year results were rescued by a record performance from the life insurance division.

CGU, formed from the merger last June of Commercial Union and General Accident, saw general insurance operating profit halve to E504 million (£1.04 billion).

Bob Scott, group chief execu-tive, said the general insur-ance profit was affected by "adverse weather, large claims and competition in major markets" and had suffered from a £179 million increase in claims

in 1993.

to stomus in Canada and floods in the UK in April, October and December inflicted damage on group profits. Mr Scott said: "We are coming to the conclusion that there is a change in weather patterns. The sheer number of weather attents is a real converte. If the events is a real concern. If the number of claims we are going to pay for stoms is set to go up, we are gning to have to

do something on premiums."

Mr Scott said he intended to focus on improving underwrit-ing results and raising premium rates in 1999. Investment returns, which insurers use to offset underwriting losses, were likely to shrink in the future, he said.

Overall, pre-tax operating profit was £768 million before exceptional items (1997: £1.24 billion). Shareholders' funds rose by £1 billion to £9 billion and the total dividend per share rises to 35,1Sp a share, from 31,53p. The shares advanced 54kp to 983kp. although they remain adrift of a 12-month high of £12.80.

Margins widened to 1.31 per cent.

from 1.22 per cent. The society attributed this to Mortgage Express, which has higher margins, but said there

were no plans to cut the direct provid-

er's margins in line with the society's.

**Daimler** 

close to deal

By ROBERT WHYMANT

DAIMLERCHRYSLER is close

to reaching an outline agree-

ment with Nissan to buy an equity stake in the struggling Japa-

The size of the stake is still

being negotiated but could be as high as 33 per cent, with the US-German company taking

management control. The com-

panies hope to reach a final agreement by mid-March, locking out Ford and Renault.

DaimlerChrysler, whose in-

erests range from Mercedes-

Benz to Jeep, would acquire a

to per cent stake in Nissan's core operations, at a cost of Y100 hillion (£512 million), and

Nissan's 39.8 per cent share in

Yesterday Nissan, Japan's

second-largest carmaker, an-nounced a new round of cost-

cutting measures. The compa-

ny, which lost about £165 mil-liun last year, has debts of

Today DaimlerChrysler is expected to post a 38 per cent

surge in 1998 net income to about DMII billion (£3.87 bil-

£t3.75 billion.

ii affiliate Nissan Diesel.

nese carmaker.

#### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

# **Shield Diagnostics** merger threatened

OPPOSITION from two Norwegian private shareholders is threatening the planned E170 million merger between Shield Diagnostics and Axis Biochemicals of Norway. David Evans, Shield's managing director, will meet the investors in Oslo tomorrow in an attempt to persuade them to back the deal. Both companies have developed tests to measure the risk of heart disease, addressing markets potentially worth many hundreds of millions of pounds.

hundreds of millions of pounds.

The investors hold more than to per cent of Axis, possibly enough to scupper the all-share deal under Norwegian takeover rules. The sceptics are thought to include Tharald Brovig, a leading technology investor with a 7.7 per cent stake in Axis, who has a substantial following in Norway. The Norwegians are concerned that the Shield/Axis merger will be a re-run of Amersham International's merger with Nycomed. That much larger healthcare merger led to many Norwegian job losses.

#### Perrier sales up 24%

Perrier Vittel. Nestlé's mineral water subsidiary, reported 1998 sales of Ffr23.8 billion (£2.5 billion), up 24 per cent over 1997. The figure includes sales from San Pellegrino, acquired last year. Excluding San Pellegrino, full-year sales growth would have been 9 per cent. Almost one-third of sales was attributed to North America. Germany accounted for 25 per cent. cent, traly 19 per cent and France 17 per cent. Perrier Vittel distributes mineral water under 65 brand names, producing 11.5 billion litres and has a global market share of 15.8 per cent.

#### **Airtours lifts holding**

AIRTOURS, the UK travel group, has raised its holding in Germany's Frosch Touristik (FTI) to 35.92 per cent from 29.03 per cent. The shares were acquired from Dietmar Gunz, FTI managing director, and two private investors. Airtours bought a 29.03 per cent stake in FTt last May for an initial DMSO million (£17.7 million) with an option for a full takeover in 2002. FTI is Germany's fifth-largest tour operator. It has its own airline, Fly FTI, and owns the hotel group Siva Hotels and a travel agency chain, Flugboerse.

#### L'Oreal growth slows

L'OREAL, the French cosmetics and pharmaceutical group, saw a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to Fr8.78 billion (£924 million), in 1998 after sales rose 9.1 per cent, to Fr7S.4 billion. Excluding exchange-rate effects, sales rose II per cent. The results represent a slowdown from the spectacular sales growth of recent years. L'Oreal, run by Welsh-born Lindsay Owen-Jones, has achieved hefty double-digit growth in revenues since 1994, driven by its cosmetics division, which last year rose by 9.6 per cent. against nearly 15 per cent in 1997.

#### Quantica downbeat

QUANTICA, the recruitment and training services group, saw its shares fall by 7p to 53p yesterday after dealers were disappointed by the company's view of its own prospects. The company, in which chairman Tony Gartland, the small company investor, has a 45 per cent stake, reported pre-tax profits of £2.4 million for the year to December 4 on a threefold rise in turnover to £15 million. Mr Gartland reported a downturn in its training

#### Easynet in the black

EASYNET, the Internet service provider, yesterday reported a pre-tax profit of £143,000 for the year to December 31, compared with losses of £1.3 million the previous year. Sales more than doubled from £7.4 million to nearly £17 million, while losses per share of 6.43p turned into earnings of 0.55p. David Rowe, chairman, said the year ahead would see "strong growth, expansion and innova-tion". No dividend will be paid. Shares in the company rose nearly IS per cent from 261p to 300p.

#### Liffe restructure plan

MEMBERS of Liffe, the London futures and options exchange, are today expected to back plans for a restructur-ing of the organisation that would ditch its members-only status in favour of a business that could ultimately be quoted on the Stock Exchange. The restructuring on more business-like lines is tied to the conversion of Liffe to an electronic trading system, which will see the eventual phasing out of the brightly-coloured jackets on the open outcry trading floor.

#### Online lift for Dixons

SHARES in Dixons rose 73p to a new high of £11.63 after the electrical retailer said its Freeserve Internet service provider was linking with Benelsmann, the German publisher. Freeserve, which has won more than one nullion users since its launch last September, has signed a three-year deal to launch Benelsmann's online service in Britain. The BOL service (www.BOL.com) will launch in Britain next month. following the introduction of country-specific services in Germany and France.

#### Toys chief sells stake

RICHARD KING, chairman and managing director of Character Group, the company which is responsible for marketing and distributing Buzz Lightyear toys and Spice Girl dolls raised more than El.6 million yesterday from the sale of a 2.1 per cent stake in the company. He sold 450,000 shares at 358p. The shares yesterday fell 12p to 349½p against a high reached last summer of 42b½p. After the disposal Mr King remains interested in 19.3 per cent of the company.

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8-15 E 1

NUSINESS ROUNDUP

up 24% in the firm, the new boss will be the agent for change that is so very necessary.

That 3I of the top 125 M&S jobs can be dispensed with in the initial de-layering indicates just

tours lifts holding

Street has never experienced anything like this before. The cold-blooded axing of three executive directors has sent shock waves through Marks & Spencer and done wonders for Peter Salsbury's ruthlessness rating. The directors' floor used to be a privilised spot, even allowing for the occasional trascibility of Sir Risland Greenbury. A Sieff and a seither still had seats on the board and, until recently, Lord Sir the former chairman, would regularly drop in to enjoy an M&S lunch, served in fine style by the butlers. Retailing at the

end of the 20th century might be a cut-throat business spawning vicious competitors but this was M&S and it did things its own

Now those being given their cards include a member of the founding family, John Sacher. Perhaps, despite his long career in the firm, the new boss will be in the firm the new boss will be

can be dispensed with in the initial de-layering indicates just how bureaucracy had been allowed to breed in Baker Street.

Many more jobs will follow. But have to work on changing the culture within the difficult confines ture within the difficult confines imposed by the sprawling head office. Those who negotiated the deal that gave M&S a 125-year lease on the property did so with

All change at Baker Street such skill that the company now inhabits the premises at little more than a peppercorn rent.

ford to move. But there will be efforts to modernise the building. They could start with the flinging open of the many doors that line the upper corridors. After yesterday's blood-letting, the chances are that some executives will be found cowering behind them in the hope that they might not be

The company simply carnot af-

The problems within the group go far beyond an over-staffed head office. Out in the stores, the sales are looking depressing. February, says Mr Salsbury, is always the worst month for cloth-ing sales but the anecdotal evi-dence is that M&S is finding the month rather nastier than some of its rivals. It does appear to be out of touch with its customers, a drastic predicament for what still likes to think of itself as the nation's favourite retailer.

Analysts have leapt upon the notion that Mr Salsbury is going to concentrate his efforts on sorting out the main British business, perhaps scaling back on operations. Chris Littmoden's enforced retirement



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

ping around is not merely the pre-

rogative of those who can choose

between M&S and Next: few cor-

banking if they feel that a better deal can be offered elsewhere.

amoured of the book-building ap-

proach to cash raising so fa-voured by the American houses.

It was these incomers who lob-

bied so hard for change, yet the

But they have not been over-en-

has encouraged stories that Brooks Brothers is to be sold. But apart from running the US opera-tions, Mr Littmoden was also seen as Mr Salsbury's only seri-ous rival for the top job. A really ruthless man might have allowed that consideration to influ-

ence his thinking.

Mr Salsbury is certainly not about to sell Brooks, although the American management would like to buy it.

#### A Bridgeman inquiry too far

t seems an age ago that John Bridgeman decided he would initiate a full-blooded investigation into underwriting charges. He had warned the banks that he would do just that if they did not drastically change

Now, after a long and compli-cated inquiry, the full might of the Monopolies Commission has

been brought to bear on the subject and the City, and its arcane underwriting practices, have been given a virtually clean bill of health. The Securities and Futures Authority is to make sure that corporate financial advisers are made aware that they should not operate a cartel and should tell their clients that there are al-ternative ways of raising money to the traditional rights issue, but that is the most concrete propos-

al to come out of the proceedings.

Denise Kingsmill, the clever lawyer who led the inquiry, detected at first sight a complex monopoly. The regularity with which the same fee structure occurs would lead many to the same conclusion. But the City becomes ever more competitive and, even as the inquiry was wending its long winded way around the Square Mile and its customers, variations on the traditional rights issue theme have

So now the MIMC has come up

This entire episode has been a fine example of unnecessary interference. Houses such as Schroders were already experimenting with new methods of fund raising before Mr Bridgeman decided on his heavy handed tactics. The market has prevailed. with little more than an exhortation to play fair with the customers. Many of the customers are, of course, quite capable of ensuring that they negotiate a reasonable deal with their financiers. Shop-

#### Liaison receiving too much currency

Thile Eddie George

ther would be dangerous.

hile Eddie George spent yesterday trying to explain how low inflation and high employment tells in porate customers now feel wed-ded to the idea of relationship united in marriage, the talk in the currency markets was more about the pain of breaking-up. For many months, the dollar and the pound were happily en-twined, maintaining the kind of stable relationship that would have Britain instantly qualifying for EMU membership if only sterling had chosen the mark rather than the greenback as a

MMC has not been persuaded to abandon the concept of pre-emp-tion rights which is taken for granted in the UK. Quite right Tony Blair's National Change-over Plan, however, seems finally to have driven a wedge betoo, for ownership is not some-thing to be snatched away light-ly. That a company may dilute its investors' holdings by 5 per cent, through share issues, has long been tolerated but to go any furtween the transatlantic lovers. The pound, already 4 per cent lower against the dollar this

year, finally broke out of its tight hand to close down below \$1.60 for the first time in 16 months. Equally significantly, the pound failed to follow the dollar higher against the euro. While the dollar climbed to a fresh high against the fledgeling European currency, sterling actually closed lower and now sits some 1.5 per cent below its record euro level.

Even on the Government's most optimistic target, it is a minimum of four years before Britain could actually join the single currency. The currency markets, however, have already succumbed to the dangerously selffulfilling prophecy of inevitability, just as Mr Blair and his fellow europhiles would have wished The pound, it seems, is now des-tined to be viewed as the euro's. rather than dollar's, consort.

#### Motor mouth

LAST week Nick Reilly, Vaux-hall chairman, gave warning of dire investment consequences if Britain stayed outside the euro. This week General Motors, Vauxhall's parent, announced a new investment in the UK - one made in preference to Germany. Surely credit cannot go to Tony Blair's euro push on Tuesday. Apparently Mr Reilly meant future generations of investment, whatever timescale that might encompass. He may consider if he should make more euro warn-ings rather than when.

# Centrica to make special dividend Preal growth slow payout of £530m

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

untica downbeat when it announced plans for a £530 million special payout.

The company, formed when the old British Gas split into Centrica and BG two years ago, had not previously paid a in dividend as it struggled to sort campaign, is short of electricin out its take-or-pay gas conracts. But it is to pay a special to dividend of 12p a share followed by a first ordinary payment of 2½p.

The payment was declared as Centrica said it is now a bigger operator in the opened-up electricity supply lassiness for continued that Centrica

trades as British Gas, the household energy supplier, yesterday ended the long wait of shareholders, for a dividend bigger supplier than Swalec, the Welsh company that is half of the multi-mility Hyder.

Centrica - however, having recruited electricity customers through its multimillionpound national advertising ty. It has to buy most of its supply in the electricity pool— the controversial marketplace which is being reformed— where it says electricity prices are 20 per cent higher than they need to be. they need to be.

had pulled out of the race to buy power stations from PowerGen but said it could still try, with a partner, for Drax, National Power's £2 bil-However, he said he did not

have specific approval from the Department of Trade and Industry that the Government would not have regulatory concerns if Centrica were to clinch a deal. Centrica has 80 per cent of the domestic gas mar-ket despite competition having begun nearly three years ago. Centrica did not deny recent reports that it is interested in buying the RAC, the motoring organisation. Mark Clare, finance director, said there would be big synergies in fusing the operations of such busi-nesses because of their call cen-

tres and customer networks.

Mr Gardner said Centrica
was keen to expand its home service operations. It aims to provide everything from plumbelectrical appliance repa to automated home systems.

Pre-tax profits before exceptionals for the year to December 31 were £208 million (£175)

Tempus, page 32



# Cadbury reveals extent of its Russian losses

BY ROBERT COLE, CTTY CORRESPONDENT

CADBURY SCHWEPPES, the digit percentages and to genersweets and soft drinks compa-ny, lost nearly £100 million last year as a result of its aggressive attempts to expand in Russia.

The write-down of Russian assets cost the company £68 million. But trading losses of £16 million were also incurred. Profits in other continental European businesses were reduced by about £13 million as a knock-on effect.

The Russian losses, together with the absence of big one-off gains in the 1997 results, conspired to produce a 41 per cent fall in headline pre-tax profits for the year to January 2. However, the company said underlying profits rose ll per cent. The company also lived up

to its promise, made two years ago, to increase underlying earnings per share by doubleate free cashflow in excess of £150 million. The company also pledged to double shareholder returns inside four years, and reported that advances of 57 per cent had been

achieved in 24 months. Cadbury Schweppes agreed last December to sell its non-US soft drinks operations to Coca-Cola for £1.1 billion. The deal has yet to receive regulatory clearance and yesterday Sir Dominic Cadbury, chairman, said the sale was unlikely to be sealed until the third quarter of this year. Other disposals are expected to raise another

£500 million. The final dividend is 13.2p. lifting the total to 19p from 18p

Tempus, page 32

#### Wickes back in the black

WICKES, the DIY and builder's merchant chain, delivered proof of its recovery by returning to the black with a pre-tax profit for 1998 of £24.9 million. The year before it made a loss of £6.5 million (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company, whose former managers remain under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office after an accounting scandal two years ago, is doubling its capital expenditure to £50

million this year.
Underlying sales in the year to December 31 rose from £518 million to £538 million. Like-for-like sales in the six weeks to February 13 have been 0.8 per cent higher.

Earnings were 32.3p a share (9.1p loss). A final dividend of 4p (2p) makes a total of 6p (2p).

### Talk Radio's OFT call

tion, has complained to the Office of Fair Trading because Radio. Times will notcarry its listings (Raymond Snoddy writes). Talk Radio alleges "anti-competitive discrimination by one arm of

tional, owner of The Times.

TALK RADIO, the national the BBC to favour its own commercial speech radio sta- programmes". Radio Times. art of BBC Worldwide, the BBC's commercial arm, says the station's audience is too small to justify listings. Shareholders in Talk Radio include News Interna-

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**improve** margins

By CHRIS AYRES

He made his promise as Logica - whose main activities are systems integration, consulting and outsourcing - reported a strong set of results, with interim pre-tax profits rising 67 per cent to £26 million. In spite of the results, shares of Logica which are valued at more than 60 times forecast earnings —

profits. However, the comparise 35 per cent to £292 million

shone those of Admiral and Sema, its competitors, which have both reported over the past few days. A bearish trading statement from Admiral on Tuesday helped to fuel spec-ulation that the IT sector is heading for a sharp correc-tion. However, Dr Read said he was not concerned about Logica's high valuation. The only thing I worry about is de-livering outstanding results to

from 7.2 per cent to 8.9 per cent during the half-year period. Dr Read admitted they were below those of many of its rivals. He also admitted that much

they fit our overall strategy."

Dr Read said he was looking at up to six acquisitions, and disaster-recovery.

# Logica chief promises to

MARTIN READ, chief executive of Logica, yesterday vowed to improve margins at the IT services group while pushing ahead with its aggressive international expansion policy.

slipped 10p to 6631/p. Analysts said many institu-

tions were worried that the company was overvalued at £2.5 billion and were taking ny's results, which saw sales in the six months to December 31, were in line with City expec-

Logica's results also outthe City," he said.

Although margins had risen

of Logica's growth would come from expansion abroad. The company has made several foreign acquisitions over the past year. "I want to go on buy-ing companies," he said. "We need to be bigger in the US. But we also have to make sure

could consider moving into the with the acquisition of a company such as Guardian IT. Logica is paying an interim dividend of 1.15p (0.9p).

# MARKS & SPENCER SAFETY RECALL.

TUG KETTLES & TUG KETTLES WITH FILTERS MADE IN 1992 & 1993

STYLE	TYPE NUMBERS
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ASHBERRY JUG KETTLE WITH FILTER	139-4
HARVEST JUG KETTLE WITH FILTER	1395
ORANGE BLOSSOM JUG KETTLE WITH FILTER	1387

Marks & Spencer has established a possible fault in the above ranges of jug kettles, which might develop after prolonged use, causing them to malfunction and become ansafe.

In the interest of customer safety it has been decided to rorall these products with

refund will be given. Should there be any questions regarding the affected products.

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Marks & Spencer apologises for any inconvenience caused

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# Blue chips surge as investors pour in cash

THE sheer weight of money pouring into the market yesterday sent share prices soaring to their highest levels ever.

The FTSE 100 index powered to a new closing high of 6,307 oup 152.4 having briefly touched a new intra-day high of 6.316.6 as a total of 1.06 billion shares changed hands. An opening rise on Wall Street also supported sentiment.

Gains among second-liners were more subdued, reflected by the FTSE 250 index, which closed 33.8 up at 5,220.2.

The recent cash handouts by companies such as Halifax. up 18p to 7934p, and Woolwich, 1432p better at 3994p, means that more money has been released into the system, which will find its way back into the marketplace. To that must be added the £5 billion share buyback announced by Unilever, 31:p lighter at 621p. announced on Tuesday.

There is just too much weight of money chasing too few shares," was the verdict of one leading broker. And with further share buybacks and cash handouts envisaged, the equity market looks destined to keep on rising — for the ome being at least,

Best performances among the leaders were seen in HSBC, up 113p to £17.83. Dixons. 73p bener at £11.63, Hays. 3315p higher at 589%p. Ladbroke. 16p up to 288p and BTR

Siebe, 13p higher at 255%p. Scottish & Newcastle, up 37%p to 707%p, was also sought after. There is talk it may decide to beat Whitbread, 38p higher at 923p, to the punch and launch a bid for

Greenalls, up 12p to 3861/2p.
There may be some bullish news on the way for Britain's hard-pressed housebuilders. Word is official figures, due out soon, will reveal a sharp increase in new housing starts. Brokers say the sharp drop in interest rates during the past few months has begun to encourage buyers and will be sure to stimulate demand for housebuilders.

Selective support was seen as Berkeley Group firmed Ip to 503-p. Bovis, 2-p to 235p. Beazer, 1-p to 168p. McCarthy & Stone, 3'sp to 171'sp, and Wilson Bowden, 10p to 5774p.

Recent weakness in shares of Compass. up 27 p at 743p. has provided investors with a buying opportunity. That is according to Goldman Sachs, the US securines house, which



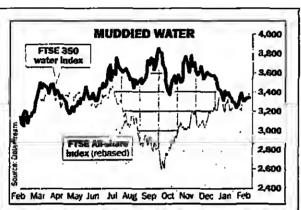
There was support for housebuilders as brokers said the fall in interest rates was translating into new housing starts

has been telling clients the price of the contract caterer has fallen far enough, It has underperformed the FTSE Allshare index by 15 per cent since hitting a high of 809%p

last month. Revived speculative buying drove First Choice 912p higher to 16012p as almost one million shares changed hands. There is talk of a hid at about 220p.

which would value the package tour operator at £742 million. There seems to be no stopping Arm Holdings. 4274p. or 20.9 per cent. dearer at £24.67!: following news of its

alliance with 3Com Corporaoon aimed at focusing on advanced networking products. The loss-making microchip specialist has soared from a low of 750p in May, and cur-



THE next few weeks may prove stressful for investors in the water companies.

The companies must submil their business plans to Ofwat, the industry regula-tor, by April 9, and the Government will in turn, confirm their environmental could be as much as £8.5 billion while at the same time aggressively challenging the industry's capital ex-

penditure costs. Merrill Lynch the broly to prove unsettling and could prompt a sell-off of

Since early October. water stocks have underperformed the rest of the market by about 30 per cent. As a result Merrill has moved "underweight" to 'neutral" bui remains cau-

Unregulated carnings will assume much greater significance after 2000, which will be good news for the likes of Pennan. down 714p at £10.7312, and Thames, Ip firmer at £10.58.

#### Unformnately, Arm is an illiquid market where traders will only make a price in 2,000

Calluna confinued to reel from the profit warning that came after the official close of business on Tuesday, with the price dropping 7p. or 30 per

Keep an eye on Quality Soft-ware Products. 35p better at 395p. Followers of the stock claim there is good news on the way with the group having secured an important contract. Full-year results on March 24. should make pleasant read-

Brokers came away from Tuesday's post-results meet-ing with NXT in a bullish mood. They expect big things from the company that makes flat audio speakers. The shares responded with a rise

of 12p to 493:2p.

Vymura also put on Sp at 814p in the wake of Tuesday's results. The company yesterday gave a series of presentarions to a number of number of Scottish fund managers and came away having clearly made a favourable impression.

Atlantic Telecom stood out with a rise of 15p at 167p after being awarded five new regional licences to provide fixed

radio access services. Torex drew strength from re-cent profit numbers with price jumping 14/2p to 156p. This week the company has been meeting Scottish fund managers. Teather & Greenwood, the broker, rates the shares a "buy". A "buy" recommenda-tion from Albert E Sharp, the broker, hoisted Bodycote In-ternational 524p to 795p.

☐ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices opened lower in thin trading reflecting earlier falls by US Treasury bonds. Attempts al a rally later in the session quickly ran out of steam leaving prices lower on the day across the yield curve.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished 19p down at £117.67 as 30,000 contracts were completed Among convencional issues, Treasury 8 per ceni 2021 fell 58p to £149.02, while Treaswy 7 per cent 2002 dioped 3p to £107.23. ☐ NEW YORK: US shares were stronger in the wake of Alan Greenspan's upbeat congressional testimony. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 19.72 points to 9,564.14.

# MAJOR INDICES

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# MAJOR CHANGES

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BGR	172'		+ 150
Easynet			+ 149
Simon Crp	43	+ 5	+ 131
Versailles Grp			+ 11.5
Global		+ 1'4	+ 11.1
Cortecs		+ 24	+ 10.9
Vymurz		+ 8	+ 10.8
BIG		+ 29'2	
Torex		+ 14'	
Black Arrow		+ 812	
Ouarto		+ 7	+ 10.0
Attantic Telecom	157	+ 15	+ 98
W/W		+ 812	
Select App		+ 69'-	+ 9.3
Winterd Welcowd		+ 31:	+ 7.6
Chesterfield		+ 25	+ 7.3
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# TEMPUS

# Turning up the gas

THE old British Gas empire becomes less recognisable by the day. On Tuesday, two years after the demerger of the privaosed utility, BG moved steps closer to dividing itself again. Meanwhile Centrica, the household gas sales side of the already demerged British Gas, is selling electricity, heating engineering servic-es, electrical appliance repairs, credit cards and insurance. In addition, it harbours ambitions to become a plumber, and mortgage pro-vider. Almost unbelievably it also has designs

on the Royal Automobile Club. As well as becoming less like old British Gas and its sibling BG, Centrica is also invading the "dirtier" operations most thought il had left behind. Centrica is a gas producer and it wants to buy power stations.

But can Centrica be this many things to so

many people successfully? It will not be easy.

Even if one sees the coherence in Centrica strategy of developing a range of household services, the company is trying to play intery different areas from those in which it has soperience. It may make sense for this gas supplier to move into the provision of another utility -electricity. But does it have the skills to take on the likes of Direct Line, the Automobile Associ-ation and the Abbey National at their own. very competitive games? In its own specialist arena, for instance, it had to endure the disastrous take-or-pay gas contracts that inflicted so much damage.

Yet, at launch, cynics were also quick to ridi-cule the now successful Goldfish credit card. There is no reason why careful expansion into other consumer utility activity should not work. Now Centrica has burst back on to the dividend list, hold the shares.

#### Cadbury

IT WAS not until investors digested the results from Cad-bury Schweppes that the share price felt the heat. The stock tootled along until about 3 o'clock then suddenly fell 34%p to £t0, enough to make Cadbury the day's most disappointing FTSE 100 performer.

Earlier in the day the slick investor-relations machine at Cadbury succeeded in making the 1998 results look not just decent, but really quite good it was encouraging to see Cadbury getting to grips with its cost base. And if investors Ignore enough of the background noise, the figures do meet the stiff performance criteria Cadbury set itself two

years ago. But is it right to ignore losses in Russia and more exchange-rate disadvantages? Cadbury needs growth markets and the Russian prob-

lems delay delivery of that growth. Cadbury. a global business, also has to live with exchange-rate troubles. Sales fell last year partly be-

cause Cadbury decided to sacrifice some volume for profit. But the sales growth remains the unanswered challenge.

Cadbury also disappointed because it not only failed to

deliver a share buyback, but

should acquire, but until it gets the money from the fin-US drinks deal — which could be another six months

the share price performance is likely to be subdued.

Take profits.

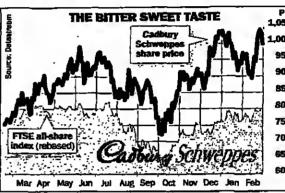
also indicated that it would

prefer to spend the £1.6 bil-

lion disposal proceeds on ac-

quisitions. To assure longer-

term prospects Cadbury



#### Avis Europe

IT is often said that rented cars go much faster than privately owned vehicles. They go on rougher ground too. The consequential worries about the residual values of cars in a hire fleet, therefore, are always likely to undermine the attraction of what it is, superficially, a healthy

The fluctuating price of shares in Avis Europe is testament to the contradictions at the heart of this industry. A softening European economy over the coming year does not help Avis either. The hire price rises achieved in the past 12 months are sure to be growth may be curtailed too. Yet it was never likely that

Avis could repeat the 44 per cent growth in pre-tax profits achieved in 1998. Moreover. profit margins remain healthy and some volume growth is expected. Short of

DOLLAR RATES

rope. Avis remains well placed to record attractive earnings growth in the coming years.

In addition Avis operates in many tourist hotspots, particularly those frequented by well-heeled Americans, so its reliance on economy-specific fortunes is reduced.

At yesterday's closing price of 258kp, Avis shares trade on a prospective earnings multiple of about 18. This leaves healthy upside. though buyers should monitor their investment closely.

#### Select Ap'ments

SELECT Appointments is a well-spread operation, but thal it offers arms-length expo-sure to the information tech-

nology sector. Two fifth of its business is in IT placement. Select shares were badly undermined in the second half of last year. They dived to a low of just 353p in October from changing hands at

£10.69 in July - proof positive that the recruitment sec-tor stocks are sitting duck the darker economic clouds begin to gather. Select's industrial and geographical diversi-ty should cushion it against economic adversity. But no one should delude them-selves that Select is anything but vulnerable - especially

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toriously fickle IT. At the July peak the Select shares were overstretched bot at 353p they had also dropped too far. The shares have recovered, and helped by the 691/p or 9 per cent rise yesterday now trade at 816p. But at these levels the price is beginning to

because of its exposure to no-

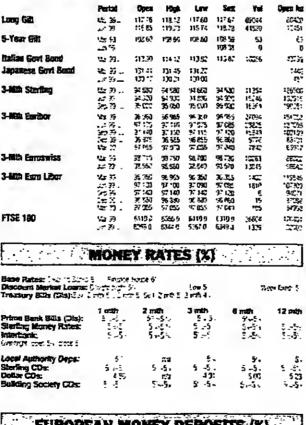
look toppy again. Expectations are that Select will make £66 million of pretax profit in 1999, up from E53 million. The forward ple is about 20. Assuming the profit targets are met this represents reasonable value. But

the risks are also substantial. **EDITED BY ROBERT COLE** 

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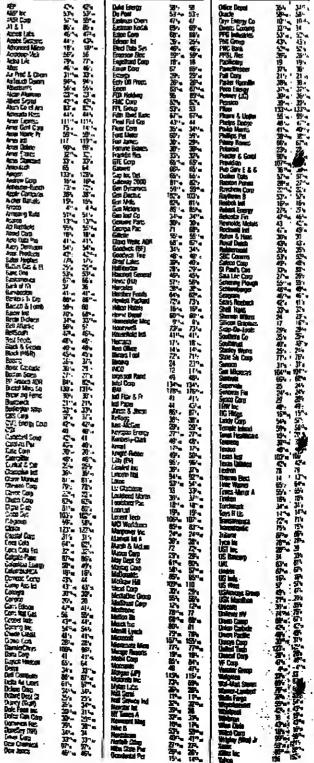
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THE BUTTER SAETING

# Spare us another Budget for virtue

iscal activism seems addic-tive for Labour govern-ments. In the herric 1970s. Denis Healey seemed forever to be catching up with events in extra mini-budgets. Twelve days hence, Gordon Brown is due to present his third Budget in 22 months. He has made two autumn pre-Budget statements, the first of which contained enough measures to have restisfied most Chancellors for a year. And remember that threeyear public spending schedule.

which seemed to settle matters unil the next election programme.
You can understand Mr Brown's desire to get on with it. Both he and his supporters needed to release the pent-up energy accumulated during five frustrating years of unexpected Opposition and stumbling government be-tween 1992 and May 1997.

Now, surely, it is time for a breather, time for a Budget to carry on as we are and let the reforms work through. After all. Mr Brown has has made much of setting a long-term course for a full Parliament and beyond. Forget it. Not for nothing is the Chancellor nicknamed John Knox among true cognoscenti. The urge to keep up the work rate is compulsive.

Unfortunately, so is the political urge to foster puritan virtue and to indulge those deep-seated senti-ments against middle-class comfort that Labour suppressed in its pre-election tax promises. Mr Brown's £5 billion a year tax on middle class pension savings, for instance, has overwhelmed all subsequent efforts by other ministers to boost saving for retirement.

The case for quietism might at least triumph in the Budget judg-ment, which is measured by the net impact of tax changes. If the Treasury believed in demand management, there might be a case for cutting taxes to soften the economic downturn that has already hit manufacturing hard and is gradu-ally infecting the rest of the econo-

my. By any forecast or comparison, the economy will grow below

its long-term trend in 1999, if at all. Mr Brown would have the perfect excuse to bung over a few billion extra for us to spend by bring-ing in his promised 10p initial income tax rate without paying for it elsewhere. No matter that hardly anyone else sees any point in yet more complication Pending a real reform of income

tax rates, which would have to wait for a second Labour term, it would make more sense for incentives to raise the basic tax-free aliowance to the product of a year's work at the minimum wage, even if the gain was initially limited to married couples or families.

Sadly, new Labour's obsession with targeting seems to rule out the common sense approach. Average and better off families would also benefit, which is anathema to



a form of welfare spending. We may still get tax on child benefit, although it would raise little unless the principle of separate taxation of spouses is reversed.

Big tax cuts to boost demand can safely be ruled out. The Chancellor does not believe in demand management. Treasury forecasts are

toy than most outsiders. Unless those forecasis change, they project a one-year hiatus, before interest rate cuts restore "normal" growth in 2000. Public finances are even more buoyant than expected. Mr Brown is still anxious to stick to his self-imposed budgetary rules as well as to Maastricht limits, either of which could come into play if recession takes hold.

Under the heretical, self-flagellating Maastricht form of monetarism, there would even be a case to increase tax rates, or preferably to cut spending, to anticipate budgetary difficulties. Here at least the Chancellor's optimism is welcome. Under proper disciplines, deficits take the strain in bad times, just as surpluses should be built in good years. The case for masterly inac-

tion is overwhelming. Aggregate inaction just leaves

reform of inheritance tax was on agenda long before someone noticed a loophole to allow an expensive house to be passed on without tax. The tax is relatively easily avoided by the truly rich and raises little money. That is not neces-sarily a bad thing but is bound to appal the Chancellor.

Does Mr Brown want to punish the rich or to raise revenue? He might want both. Tax lore suggests he must choose. If the great puritan can bear it and if there has to be an inheritance tax, it should be to raise money. That means tax rates should be extremely low, less than 30 per cent at the top end, so that any efforts to close loopholes are matched by lack of incentive to open new ones. The rich, like the poor, are always with us and we might as well accept it. We do not want a repeat of the capital gains tax reform, which will cause far more investment distortion. In other directions, such as what

are justified as "environmental" taxes, you may be sure that the rhetoric will not be matched by reality. Extra fossil fuel taxes, or imposts on cars, parking et al will be touted as incentives for people to change their behaviour. Like perrol taxes, however, they will surely be set to raise the maximum revenue. And that means that few of the lambasted anti-socials who suffer the imposts are intended to change their behaviour.

Far better if the Chancellor started to heed his own injunctions and prepare for the euro. Whatever Eddie George may say, this would logically require him to the inflation measure used for monetary policy to the lower measure used on the Continent, with or without a tightening of the inflation target. Mortgage interest relief should be restricted to fixed rate mortgages rather than be abolished and, to ease damaging distortion, duty on beer and spirts should be cut. But would John Knox approve?

# UK insurers place premium on size as the predators gather

Marianne Curphey reports on the global consolidation gripping the insurance world

xecutives of the UK's life and composite in-surers could be forgiven for feeling anxious as the reporting season gets underway. However good their results may be, large and small companies alike are phting for their professional wes.

Few of the UK's composite insurers are expected to remain as they are for long. Some analysts have even forecast that there will be no independent UK insurers left with-

More mergers that create large domestic companies such as Royal & SunAlliance and CGU are inevitable as the ability to offer clients global, rather than regional, expertise becomes increasingly impor-

Even this may be insuffi-cient to hold off European and. American predators for long. AIG of the US, Allianz of Germany and Aegon of The Neth-, erlands are on the prowl for UK insurers, and only the current high valuations of their IN targets are stopping the ag-gressors from making immedi-

Having attempted drastic cost-cutting through redundancies, domestic insurers are becoming increasingly nervous about losing market share to banks and supermarkets in their core areas and fighting off predatory approaches.

A series of takeovers - most recently the bid by AXA of France for the UK composite Guardian Royal Exchange has already changed the face of the insurance toarket.

Last week Aegon, the Dutch parent of Scottish Equitable, propelled itself into the world insurance superleague by taktog over the US financial services group Transamerica.

Aegon is now dwarfed only by AIG and Allianz Aegon said it would have bought a European insurer had the prices been lower. Royal & SunAl-liance, one of the bidders for GRE, has itself been named as a potential acquisition by

These new, global players

are now directing their energies towards one goal in partic-ular — that of creating and nurturing a worldwide brand.

They have learnt the lesson of retailers and airlines who, having exhausted the avenues of price cuts and improved customer service, have found themselves forced to build brand in order to distinguish themselves from their rivals. This is becoming more impor-tant in general insurance too as it moves towards becoming a pure commodity product.

The big insurance players have also taken on some of the more aggressive marketing techniques of consumer goods

In the UK there is some evidence that niche players have woken up to the advantages of clever marketing. Direct Line, the motor insurer, caught on early to the commercial strength of branding with its red telephone.

Virgin Direct has sold its financial services products on the strength of Richard Branson's image as the man who dares to challenge the staid insurance industry.

The most recent example of focused brand-building is that shown by Sun Life & Provincial, AXA's 77 per cent-owned UK arm. Having made an offer for GRE, it now intends to ditch all the GRE and Guardian brands and repackage prod-ucts under the AXA brand. Despite all the money GRE spent promoting Guardian Direct, AXA has decided the image is dated and does not hold

enough sway with consumers. AXA and Sun Life & Provincial have decided to keep the PPP healthcare brand, whose businesses GRE bought last year. Though it never released the figures, PPP is believed to have spent £50 million over three years building up its rep-utation and brand name

through advertising.

Most analysts believe GRE overpaid for PPP because it was seduced by the brand even though the healthcare business had been making poor returns on its premium



Lord Hambro, chairman of GRE, left, and Lord Douro, chairman of Sun Life & Provincial

tion, as the company plans its expansion overseas. Although the Prudential name is well known in the UK, the company is unable to use it in the US and research has shown that there are thousands of small companies in South-East Asia

called "Prudential". Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive of Prudential, has been putting in place a strate-gy to distribute products via four distinct and very separate

Egg. the direct brand, is a low-cost operation for custom-ers who do not want advice.

Branding is something that is also exercising the top minds at Prudential Corporations of Prudential Corporations of the Insurer's discussion rect salesforce. Scottish Amicable is the brand sold through independent financial advisers, while Prudential Portfolio

> Before chief executives start writing blank cheques to advertising companies, however, they need to question whether the company matches up to the image created.

Managers is the investment

Pat Newberry, a partner and insurance specialist with PricewaterhouseCoopers, believes that in order to survive, insurers will have to act quickly. He said: "So many life companies have inadequate brands. A limited number have had some success in creating a trademark that conveys something of the company's nature and values.

"However, arguably, there is no company that has created a proper brand which defines the company's value proposition in the eyes of the customer in such a way that it draws the customer uniquely to the organisation, to buy its products in preference to those

of another provider."

Most insurers will find changing the culture of their transition of all. Many have old computer systems that ucts, rather than the spread of products owned by a single customer. When customers make inquiries, they are often shunted between different departments, which frustrates

Insurers have also failed to exploit the detailed information that they hold about existing clients, including salary and mortgage details. As a consequence, they have struggled to cross-sell products. This is also something Prudential is addressing by attempting to offset the cost of giving competitive rates on its direct banking and Egg accounts by branching out into mortgages and personal-loans.

The information insurers hold is data that supermarkets and the airlines, experts in analysing shopping and travel patterns, are able to use much more effectively.

Mr Newberry predicts that database management, mar-keting, and quality of service to customers will become much more important than the traditional insurance values of claims settling and underwriting. This in turn will mean recruiting new staff and developing new products.

ife insurers face competition in their core areas from banks and building societies, from investment houses, such as Perpetual, which want to set up life companies, and from direct, low-cost insurers.

But banks have made less progress than was expected because they have failed to persuade consumers that they should buy all their financial products from one provider. They have also failed to exploit financial information effectively and have been unable to turn counter staff into sales-

men and women. Some insurers, such as Standard Life and Prudential, have fought back by expanding into the banks territory. Royal & SunAlliance has concentrated its efforts on building up a top-class fund management team.

These may develop into good niche business but are

unlikely to be enough to guarantee autonomy. Whatever the results reported by the insurers this week, their days as independent companies appear to be numbered.

# Dreaded bug is creating big business

idespread coverage in the Press of the problem has helped many companies realise just how dependent they are on computer systems. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that companies providing so-called "disaster recovery" services are enjoying booming business.

This week, Guardian IT, the UK's largest disaster recovery company, reported a 29 per cent rise in sales, while its competitors - ranging from IBM to Compaq/Digital and Unisys - are enjoying similarly buoyant demand.

Customer are guaranteed that their corporate IT sys-tems will be backed-up in an emergency. But it is clear from Guardian's research that many companies do not think it is worth paying hefty monthly premiums to protect themselves against what they

see as a very small risk.
It is estimated that only 10 per cent of all companies with so-called "mission critical" IT systems take out such policies. In some cases, companies believe that the millennium bug is the only real threat to their IT systems. According to Guardian, however, this is not the case. Everything from hardware failure to freak weather, computer hacking, and terrorist attacks (such as the Canary Wharf bomb in

1996), can lead to IT disasters. Although only a handful of companies suffer IT disasters each year, when such problems do strike, they can be severe enough to put an unprepared company out of business for good. After all, who would trust a company that could not keep trading if its



central database was destroyed in a fire or flood? It is already the law in some areas of the financial services industry for companies to have "provable" back-up IT systems in place. If Guardian is to be believed, this kind of regulation could soon extend to non-financial areas.

Many companies will justi-fiably find it irritating that the likes of Guardian can generate huge profits from con-tracts which are of use only in extreme and rare circumstances. Perhaps in the long term. as so-called "fault tolerant" IT systems develop, such con-

tracts will be unnecessary. But, as IT systems are vital to most company operations, the logic of disaster recovery looks inescapable.

**DONE** in every two shoppers would not venture to the High Street if they had the choice, says a survey, out today, by Gresham Computing. It is being used to demonstrate the untapped demand for Internet retailing.

It found that 54 per cent of consumers would like to buy goods for the best prices and have them delivered, without having to visit a shop. Among people aged 15 to 34, this rises to o 80 per cent.

**CHRIS AYRES** 

THE Docklands Light Railway is inviting builders and financiers to put in their plans for building a new rail link to London City airport, marking the start of the inevitable lengthy planning process.

No one can explain why, when they built the DLR out to Canary Wharf and beyond in the early 1990s, they did not link with the only airport there. The assumption is that the railway was being built with public funds and the planners did not think the privately owned airport would ever attract many passengers. Now 1.4 million people a year fly



City airport new rail link coming

from there. The DLR is setting a con-servative opening date for the extension in 2003 at a cost of £75 million. Times having moved on, this is a pub-lic-private partnership, like the £260 million DLR extension down to Lewisham opening later this year.

This is being built by a consortium led by John Mowlem, the contractor - the same company, oddly enough. that built the airport and was nearly sunk by £90 million of losses from it. Is Mowlem prepared to risk the curse of London City airport again? "They will certainly apply," says a source. "They would love to be involved."

I HAVE no idea what he is doing there, but I have a sighting of David Montgomery, ousted chief executive of Mirror Group. He is hatching his plans at the headquarters of More Group, the outdoor poster business bought by Americans last year. Monty, it seems, is a friend of More's Roger Parry, and he has been loaned an office in Golden Square,

ing him for his phone calls. Peyton place THE light of the year in the restaurant world will be the legal action be-

Soho, free, But Parry, wisely, is charg-



Pierre White over their respective ventures at the Regent Palace Hotel off Regent Street. Peyton is suing White, plus sundry other caterers, claiming the lease he holds on his Atlantic Bar & Grill precludes anyone else moving in on the hotel.

But Peyton's real target is Granada, owner of the hotel and in joint venture with White, whose new restaurant there, Titanic, has sparked the row. I understand that Granada will fight the case on the wording of the lease, which bars any competition except for Granada or any of its "associ-ated companies or subsidiaries". This exclusion, it is claimed, must include

MPW, the joint venture with White. However, Peyton reckons he has them anyway. The phrase speaks of Granada "continuing" lis businesses and was designed to exclude an existing restaurant there. The Titanic, of course, is a new venture. "This lease was signed in 1994." Peyton tells me. "MPW and Granada

didn't exist then. I'm not going to go away. All my legal advice" — from such as Linklaters & Paines —"is that this is a hands-down win." THEY are giving unlimited vodka away free at the Broadgate Centre today. No, honest. From Ham through

The whole thing is a stunt for Stolichnaya. Not that it matters, because one vodka tastes like any other, after all. I ring to check on availa-

to 7pm, with a two-hour break in the

bility
"If people come back for two
drinks, I'm sure they will be given
two," the publicity lady says. That
wasn't quite what I was asking. "We are not going to encourage people to get absolutely ratted in the Broadgate Centre," she says sternly. I don't see how you can stop them.

Odds against FURTHER fall-out from William

Hill Not only is Warburg Dillon Read, as I reported yesterday, being targeted by disappointed investors, plenty are also unhappy with the company itself and the £20 free betting voucher they are being offered.

There are a few who are seriously offended by being asked to visit a betting office, although one has to won-der at the flexible personal morality that does not allow one to gamble but permits investment in a betting chain. Now the more knowledgeable punters are pointing out that the £20 voucher may not be as useful as it

It provides a double on the result of the Lincoln and the Grand National. These are, I am told, two of the most difficult events to call in the racing cal-endar, and the chances of picking both winners are vanishingly small

more a lottery than a bet. Surely a £20 bet redeemable on any event would have been better? Or would this have cost William Hill too much in genuine winners? And how much business has the loss of goodwill cost William Hill anyway?

> MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk



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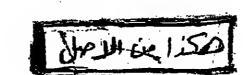


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# Avis accelerates to outstrip market forecasts

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

AVIS EUROPE, the car rental group, has outstripped market forecasts with a 44 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £8.7 million in 1998.

But it gave warning yesterday that a softer European economy would prevent it en-joying a repeat of the strong price and volume growth of

Avis said revenue rose 14.3 per cent to £576.3 million, with increases recorded in all ma-

jor markets. Mark McCafferty, chief executive, said the company was confident it had lifted its 20 per cent share of the growing European car rental market. Alun Cathcart, chairman, said the company was well placed to de-

liver growth this year.

A final dividend of 3p was declared, making 4.5p for the year compared with 3.75p previously.

The result compared with market forecasts of about £96



Cathcart: confident of growth

million and saw investors mark up Avis shares by 6.5p to 26lp. The stock, which was floated in April 1997, has had a burnov ride in the past six months, due partly to its vulnerability to economic condi-

Mr McCafferty said the

### Select puts profits up by 63% on niche buys

BY SAEED SHAH

expected impact on Avis of the

weaker European economy would be partly offset by the

expected rise in airline passen-gers, who provided half the

company's earnings.
But this is unlikely to enable

Avis to achieve its medium-

term earnings growth target of between 10 and 12 per cent this

Mike Stoddart, an analyst with Charterhouse Tilney Se-

curities, said: "Avis does not re-

ally need big growth in operat-

ing margins to have a great year. It will still show very good profit growth."

Avis also revealed yesterday

that it had formed a joint ven-

ture with the Oberoi hotel

chain in India and was study-

ing ways to break into the Jap-anese and Chinese markets. The move follows the compa-

ny's £41.8 million purchase of

the 3 Arrows business in

December and the acquisition

of its Greek licensee in July.

SELECT Appointments, the fast-growing recruitment group, said it is to continue its policy of snapping up small niche staffing operations — it has bought four around the world in the last month alone - in a strategy which should see it through the El billion turnover level this year.

Reporting pre-tax profits up 63 per cent at £53.1 million for the year ended December 31 on turnover growth of 60 per cent at £831.8 million, Tony Martin, the chairman, said: "It's not flashy, it's not sexy, but buying lots of little things can give you a very good growth rate." Robert Morton, analyst at

Charterhouse Tilney, said: They're a cracking set of figures. We will see more healthy growth this year, though they will inevitably be affected by the general economic downturn."

Mr Martin said the company has a war chest of £37 million for acquisitions. Earnings per share were 32.2p (22.9p). The company does not pay a dividend. The shares rose by more than 9 per cent, up 691/2p to 746p.



# Cannons set to invest

CANNONS GROUP, the health and fitness club operator formerly known as Var-don, is limbering up to spend £115 million over the next three years (Dominic Walsh

writes). It will invest £33 million in 1999 opening Cannons units throughout the UK, including Barrow, Leicester, Northampton, Plymouth and Swindon.

otiation, and the company hopes to open its first continental club, at Eindhoven, in

The investment marks the next phase of what has been a dramatic transformation over the past 15 months. During that time, it has sold its bingo, holidays and attractions arms for a total of £115 million, while acquiring the Cannons and Harbour Club brands.

Exceptional losses of £12.3 million from disposals sent pre-tax profits plunging from £16.3 million to £507,000 in 1998, although operating profits from continuing operations doubled to £9.5 million.

Earnings per share dipped from 9.0p to 8.1p, but the group said that it saw no sign of any trading downturn and it is lifting the final dividend to 1.76p (1.6p).

### **Dutch** post office buys Zergo software

BY CHRIS AYRES

SHARES in Zergo surged by 7 oper cent yesterday when the IT of security company said that PTT Post, the national postal " authority of The Netherlands." had chosen to use its software. Zergo produces software

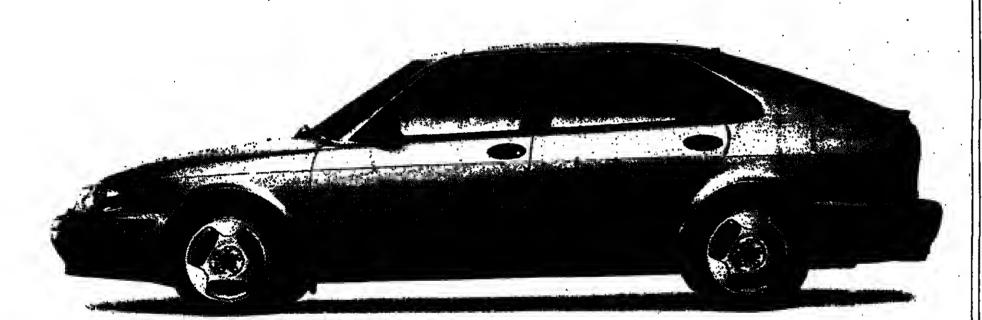
that encrypts data sent via e."."
mails and over the Internet." The software that it has sup 301 plied to the Dutch post office. "G called UniCERT, allows the organisation to confirm the idenmakes secure Internet transactions possible.

Roy Osinga, senior product manager of PTT Post, yesterday said: "Organisations and individuals are driving the growth of electronic trading, and we believe any product." and we believe our company will play a pivotal role in the facilitation of this demand

"Users' peace of mind will" be key to the growth of e'i' commerce, which is why Balti, more UniCERT has a major.

role in our plans." Shares in Zergo yesterday rose from 7124p to 7624p. compared with just 165p last





# Saab vs. PECOLE FOR PRIVATE USERS, SAAB OPTION PLAN Based on:- Saab 9-3 2.0i 5 door, 12,000 miles per annum. Cash price £5,000 Deposit £12,145 Advance 35 x £199 Monthly Rental £6808.28 Final Rental/GMFV Total Amount Payable = £18,873.28.

# Ashanti boosted by hedging gold price

SUCCESSFUL hedging of the depressed gold price helped Ashanti Goldfields, the African mining group, to boost earnings before exceptional items in 1998 from \$58.4 million to \$73.9 million (£46 million). The company, with big operations in Ghana, secured a gold price last year of \$385 an ounce, \$91. ahead of the spot gold price. In last year's final quarter, Ashanti realised \$143 million by closing hedging contracts and its conventity has forward sale and not option contracts tot-Ashann realised \$143 minion by closing redging contracts and it currently has forward sale and put option contracts tot-

and it currently has forward safe and purophore contracts for alling 7.2 million ounces at an average price of \$390 an ounce. Ashanti's gold production rose a third to 1.5 million ounces last year. The cash cost of extraction fell 14 per cent to \$218 an ounce. In November, Ashanti bought SAMAX Gold for \$137 million, expanding the potential of Ashanti's Geita property in Tanzania, which now has gold resources of 6.4 million ounces, up from last year's 3.4 million ounces. Ashanti's year-end proven and probable reserves were 23 million ounces.

#### Licence lifts ARM

SHARES in ARM Holdings rose 18 per cent after the Corporation, the US group. The shares, which were up in early trading on reports of management meetings with analysts on ARM's prospects in the automotive industry, jumped to £24.15, up 315p, as the company said that 3Com would be using ARM's design capabilities in advanced networking products. The rise took ARM, which was floated last year, through the £1 billion market capitalisation level.

### Diageo disposals

DIAGEO's UDV drinks arm, which on Monday sold eight Canadian whisky brands for \$185.5 million, is to raise \$171 million by selling some of its US brands. They are the Christian Brothers brandy and dessert wines business and the Old Charter, WL Weller, Old Fitzgerald and Rebel Yell bourbons, which have total sales of \$75 million. The sale includes UDV's Bernheim distillery, in Louisville, Kentucky, but the company is keeping premium Tennessee whiskey and Kentucky bourbon brands such as George Dickel and IW Harper.

#### No suiter, says Devro

DEVRO, the maker of sausage skins, yesterday said that it noted takeover speculation surrounding a recent rise in its share price, but stated: "The board confirms that it has received no such approach from any third party." The shares have risen from a recent low of 140p after last summer's collapse from a high of 545p. A fall of just 14p, to 16214p, in the shares yesterday suggested that the market is still convinced that there is interest in the company. In autumn, Devro was strongly linked with Viscofan, a Spanish sausage skin maker.

#### Diagonal optimistic

DIAGONAL, the IT services group, said its order book is significantly ahead of this time last year after reporting a 98 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.3 million on turnover up by 57 per cent to £70 million in the year to November 29. Although there was strong earnings growth across all divisions, the company said that a weakening in the UK economic climate is likely to affect the contract agency market, though strong growth from its consulting activities is expected. Earnings per share were 24.8p (11.4p). The total dividend is 4.8p (2.6p).

#### Private Pemberstone

PEMBERSTONE, the quoted residential property company, is to be taken private through a reverse into another property company owned by Pemberstone's executive directors. Arcrent Properties yesterday offered 63p a share for Pemberstone, a 40 per cent premium to Tuesday's close, valuing the company at 532.3 million. The offer has been recommended by Pemberstone's non-executives, who said the company's shares had suffered from a change in sentiment by financial institutions.

#### Inveresk in the red

AN INTERNAL restructuring programme sent inveresk, the paper and board producer, into the red last year. Pre-tax losses for the year to November 28 came in at £2.1 million after £4.6 million of exceptional charges. The previous year profits were £5 million. The final dividend is cut to 1.07p from 3.86p making a total of 3p (5.79p). However, Stefan Kay, chief executive, said that the company was now "a leaner and fitter group, ready to take advantage of a market upturn".

#### Domnick Hunter falls

DOMNICK HUNTER, the maker of filtration and purification equipment, said pre-tax profit for the year to December 31 was down 10 per cent to £8.6 million on turnover up to £70 million from £65 million. Brian Thompson, chairman, said the impact from the strength of sterling and the economic tur-moil in the Far East was exacerbated by recessionary pressures elsewhere in the second half. An unchanged final div dend of 4.752 pence, makes 8.152p for the year.

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BUSINESS ROUNDE Ishanti booste redging gold

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whom all this information is for has probably already changed. This week the Scots ICA released

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# Radical tax overhaul is only way

he Pre-Budget Report of November 1998 focuses on four areas, broadly identified as: the foundation of long-term economic stability; ren lying the barriers to pro-ductivity; encouraging and rewarding work; and generally

promoting "fairness".
Through targeted tax reform, the Chancellor wants to reward long-term commitment by employees and remove the old "them and us" culture in British industry. But this is the Government that has gone along with the withdrawal of profit-related pay (PRP), which started the process of linking pay/reward to profit/performance and breaking the automatic annual pay rise. There is no suggestion that any replacement for PRP is being contemplated.

Instead, share ownership is seen as the answer and, in particular, employees remaining as shareholders for a longer term. The attraction of share ownership used to be capital gro. In giving rise to capital gains tax (at a lower rate than income tax) and special reliefs such as retirement relief. However, capital gains are now taxed at income tax rates and reliefs are being withdrawn. Generally speaking, employ-ees want cash not shares, but is long-term commitment from employees a realistic aim?

Existing Inland Revenue-approved share arrangements involve considerable administra-tion for the relatively small sums involved and therefore the take up by small and mediuminvolve considerable administra-

Sheena Sullivan tem that is neither fair nor simple and the proposed general urges the

Chancellor

to tackle

key issues

sized businesses is generally poor Additionally, it is not clear how this crusade for wider employee share ownership helps the huge numbers of employees in unincorporated businesses.

The Chancellor wants to cut the burden of tax and red tape. The merger of the Inland Revenue and the Contributions Agency is a step in the right di-rection, but no steps have been taken to deal with the real problem: tax and national insurance systems that are unneces-sarily complicated. Why does the Government not admit that national insurance is just another tax and undertake a radical overhaul of the way in which money is raised to meet public expenditure? The Chancellor stated that he is pro-tax simplification, but he has failed to ad-

dress this in his proposals.

There is much talk about promoting "fairness" in taxation. It is generally agreed that you can have a simple tax system or anti-avoidance rule for direct taxes promises to be just that.

The Chancellor wants a business environment that encourages enterprise and entrepreneurs. This extends to investment by, and in, smaller businesses. He threatens to look at how the "improved" Enterprise Investment Scheme income tax and capital gains tax reliefs could encourage investors to make serial investment in smaller firms. Presumably repealing the whole of last year's Budget

changes does not appeal to him?
It is a perennial complaint that tax is getting too complex for the Revenue to cope with, never mind the taxpayer. The wording of legislation is now be-ing looked at by the Tax Law Re-Write Project, but the underlying policy is getting worse. Un-iortunately, the policymaking process we have is not designed to give us simple law, but changes could be made immediately.

If this Government is truly

pro-small business and protax simplification, it could achieve all of the above aims and go down in history as a truly reforming force.

Sheena Sullivan is a tax partner in Pannell Kerr Forster



Sheena Sullivan says the Government has the opportunity to be a truly reforming force

#### Drive to get golf put into reports

THE business world is constantly seeking ever-more sophisticated methods of performance measurement. And considerable competitive edge relies on devis-ing these methods. So we should all be grateful to Professor John Baillie, the convener of the Scots ICA's research committee, for coming up with a new one. Speaking this week at the launch of a mass of new research into the future trends in financial reporting, he said that users of reports increasingly wanted to evaluate the quality of management. "Companies should have to publish the golf handicaps of their directors. And they should have to explain in the accounts why their golf handicaps were going up. Or more importantly. why they were going down." And to think that in England peo-ple think that "links" is something to do with the Internet.

A Touche firm

ENTHUSIASTS of the "On This Day" feature in this newspaper may have missed the significance of the short piece published on Monday. It was a letter to the Editor dating from February 22, 1911. In it, the writer, then MP for Islington North, complained about the

danger to life and limb being caused by the youth of Stoke Newington rollerskating along the pavements and up-ending little old ladies and other pedestrians in their path. He lambasted the Home Secretary, one Winston Churchill, for his failure to take action. "He may rest assured," the writer concluded, "that, if he takes no action, he will soon be the most unpopular man in London." And who was this public-spirit-ed MP? None other than George Touche, the founding father who put the Touche into what is now known as the mighty accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche.

Green uncommon AT THE annual presentation of the Environmental Reporting Awards this week, sponsored by the Association of Chartered Cernified Accountants, there was enormous optimism, despite there being only 40 entries, that such reporting would ere long become the norm. They should have looked at the research findings of the Scots ICA, unveiled the day before. Its survey of

what users of accounts rated as

factors in a company's perform-ance showed that out of 29 fac-

tors "impact of environmental is-

sues" came in at number 26.

ROBERT BRUCE

# Real time is virtually here

inance directors can be forgiven for being be-wildered. All the certainties of financial reporting are coming apart. Pundits keep telling them that realtime reporting is just around the corner. The Government seems on the verge of making the whole set of financial reporting rules a hostage to fortune by, possibily inadvertently, handing responsibility

for them to Brussels. And the whole emphasis on why financial reporting is there in the first place is being turned upside down. Real-time reporting has moved closer simply because the technology has become faster by the day and its usage has moved from being clitist to commonplace in a remarka-Ny short period of time.

Meanwhile, the Depart-

ment of Trade's company law review will today put forward the choice of sticking with UK reporting rules or going with the international rules. This doesn't sound terribly important. However, to go international would have two consequences.

First, it would abandon the influential voice in the world of Anglo-Saxon accounting, which includes America. Australia and Canada' and much of the way that the

world's largest companies report And secondit would have a vacuum into which an an accounting

would leave the American standard-setters supreme and would create the possibility that Brussels would have the power to grind the market into the dust of due process. Either would result in form triumphing over substance. And that leaves financial directors

The third certainty of ICA released yet another tranche of highly influential research. The lead document is entitled Business Reportng: The Inevitable Change? and offers some sensible ways forward. It starts from a simple premise. "It is to be expected that business reportrather than producer-driven, it says, "ie, there will be a power shift from producers to commy." As many others have predicted, this will mean that much more information will ... be required to be disclosed. It will make the current quantity of financial information look small by comparison. In the past companies have always argued that to expand lisclosure only risks what hey call "information over-

'oad" among the users. But the extensive Scots reearch into what people actualy want blows that argument out of the water. The only users of accounts who had a problem

with information overload were small shareholders. Everyone else wanted much more information, particularly on future prospects, the quality of management and anything else that would enhance their ability to assess future performance. The research recognises, sensibly enough, that radical proposals scare companies rigid and are counter-productive. So they have come up with seven proposals which aim to gradually shift the emphasis towards what users want. They soggest that some kind of corporate library of information be made available electronically with a facility for layering the information so that expert users could gain more complex information while the average small shareholder could gain simplified information.

Different stakeholder groups should receive infor-mation structured in different ways to suit their needs. Records of company meetings should be placed in an accessible archive, as would the minutes of one-to-one meetings between the company and analysts. Systems to allow online

> ed. A wider range of information to enable users to assess the quality of management, or company strategy or risk, would be created. This would largely be non-financial and forwardlooking. Greater frequency of dis-

should be creat-

Robert BRUCE

closure, though still on a regular rather than realtime basis, should occur

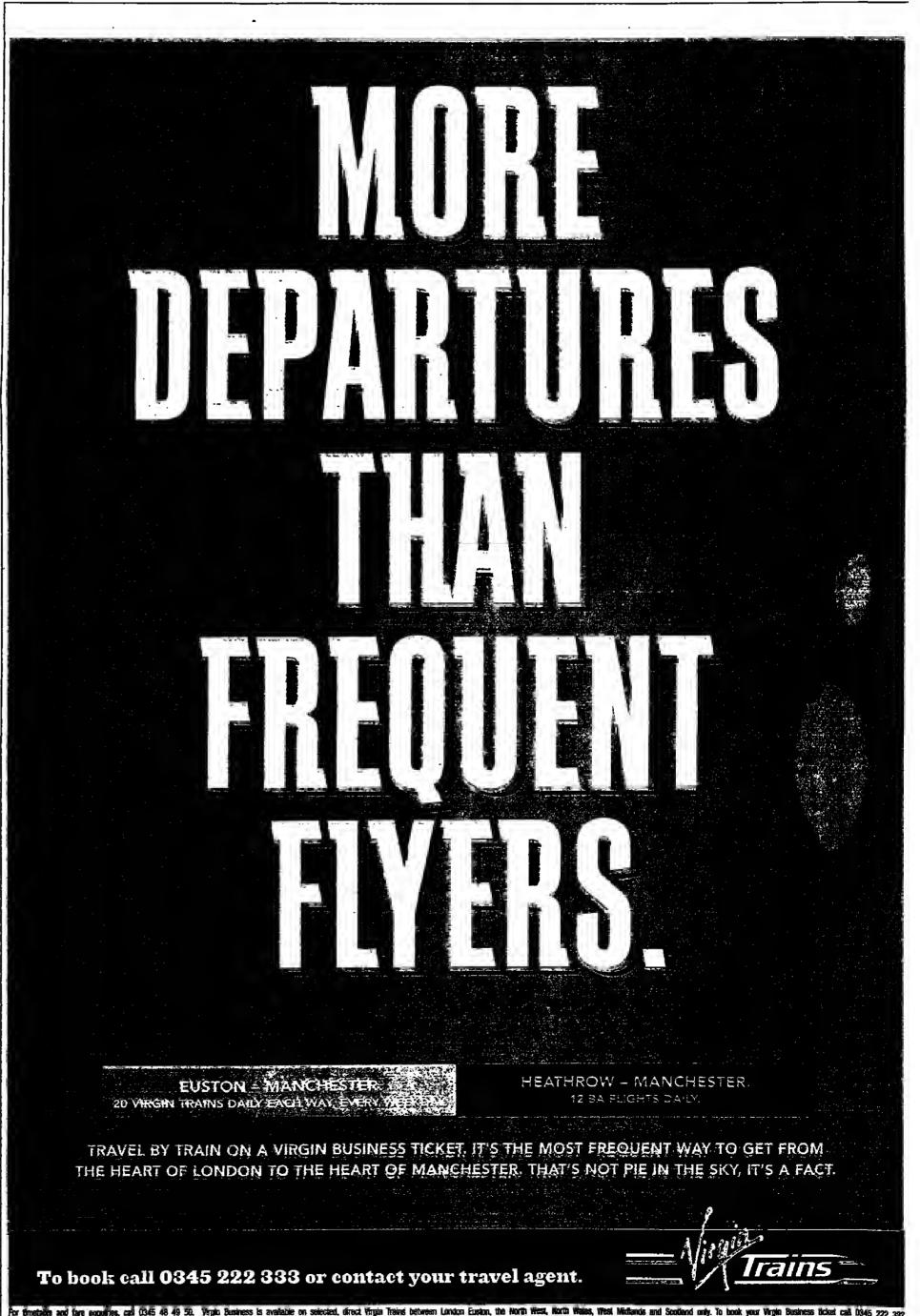
and a prospectus-type report should be produced every few years. And then comes the key. "Open access to a large part of the corporate database necessitates a shift towards assurance of processes, not just outputs," says the

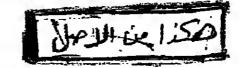
report.

The great danger is that as the information disclosed moves from the hard issues of figures to the soft issues of prospects, companies will move back to the comfortable days when unaudited chairman's statements said that everything was rosy while the audited figures suggested that the company was about to fall off a cliff.

We have already had research this year from Professor Roger Hussey, of Bristol Business School, which suggested that much corporate information on the Internet has never had any independent assurance applied to it. The problem will worsen. It is much harder to say that a company's stated prospects for the future have a ring of truth to them than to report on the total of fixed assets.

Small wonder that the Scots report suggests that one area for further research should be into the skills base of professional accountancy firms. A change of emphasis from an assurance of financial probity to an assessment of the quality of wider corporate information will require a very different approach.





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**NEW FILMS** Meg Ryan finds e-mail romance with Tom Hanks

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# Unloved but unbowed

he talk-show queen Oprah Winfrey's long and, at times, exhausting quest to bring Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Beloved to the big screen has left her saddened but defiantly proud.

She has experienced at first hand, perhaps for the first time in a remarkable career, just how unpredictable the American public can be. After all, on paper, Beloved, which she nurtured like a baby during the 11 years since she first optioned the rights to the book, was a sure-fire winner: a script based on a powerful, critically acclaimed novef, an Oscar-winning director in Jonathan Demme at the helm, and an all-star cast, including herself, of course, and Danny Glover, an extremely bankable duo.

The result, though, was greeted with indifference in America. Winfrey herself describes the reaction to Beloved as "lukewarm" and "disappointing" — but she refuses to be humbled by the experience. "From the first time I read the

book I felt the birthing of it inside myself." she says. "I'm 45 years old now so I will probably not be having children of my own, but I do feel that Beloved. in many ways, was the child that I nurtured and carried, I don't know if I will ever act again in a movie, but if I don't, I did this one and this is the one that I wanted to do."

The novel, set in the 1870s, is part ghost story, part love story. It takes place against the backdrop of slavery and tells of its devastating cffects on one family. When Winfrey. best known for her television chat show. first read Morrison's book. she immediately contacted the author and told her she wanted to turn it into a film.

i was overwhelmed and devas tated when I read the book. I had never felt the emotional connection with slavery before. I had always kind of intellectualised it. It was a time in our history, obviously difficult and terrible, but I had never felt it personally before. I wanted to put it on to the screen in such a way that people would feel how I felt when I read the book. When you read Toni's book, you understand what slavery did to a person's

Bringing that vision to the screen was not easy. Over the next few years. Winfrey met several A-list di-rectors, Many, including Jodie Foster, told her it could not be filmed; others, especially Peter Weir, were sceptical that she could play the role of Sethe, a runaway slave who

Oprah Winfrey remains defiantly proud of her film of

Toni Morrison's

Beloved, reports Martyn Palmer

suffered terrible brutality at the hands of her former owners. "When so many people tell you that you can't do it, I started to think, Who am I to think that I can? There were times when I felt like

giving up."
Finally, she met Demme, an Oscar winner for Silence of the Lambs and director of hits such as Philodelphio and Something Wild, and knew immediately that she had found her collaborator. 'The first time I mei Jonathan, he said, 'I love the story. I love the fact that it's a ghost story. I've never seen a script

<sup>6</sup> I was devastated when I read the book. I had never felt the emotional connection with slavery before?

as good as this.' He just got it. It wasn't a story just about slavery: it's about one woman's life. By the end of the meeting we were both dancing around my living room.

During filming. Morrison was a regular visitor to the set. Demme says she gave him one very valuable piece of advice on directing Winlrey's performance, urging him to keep her in check. For her part, the emotionally fragile Winfrey was convinced, at one point, that Morrison didn't like her and took to her trailer in tears.

Toni watched one scene and said. 'Why did you play Sethe getting angry there? Sethe doesn't get angry.' I was shattered. Immediately I thought, Toni Morrison hates me, she hates this movie and my life is ruined.' Her note to Jonathan that night was, 'Oprah Winfrey is emoconal. Sethe is not.

The next day I was in my trailer crying because Toni hated me. And

Jonathan came in and said, 'Look, Toni doesn't hate you, it was just a scene." He said that a book was one thing and a movie something else. He said to me. I looked at that scene and I think you made the right choices."

"But Toni was right. My biggest problem was being emotional. There were many days when Jonathan would have to calm me down. But I just wish she had said it differendy." The finished film. at just under

three hours long, is uneven and left American critics divided. The paying public were not exactly lining the streets to see it.

"I think the reason why the film has not been received as well in America as I expected is because people in America are afraid of race and any discussion about race. I don't think it has anything to do with me in the role. I think for a lot of Americans the issue of race is so volable that to bring it out front makes people embarrassed."

Born in Mississippi, Winfrey grew up, mostly with her grandmother Harrie May, determined to escape her humble beginnings. "I remember Grandma trying to teach me how to wash clothes, to kill the hogs, wring the chickens' necks, and she'd say, 'Watch me, because you're going to have to know how to do this.' And I remember thinking, 'I don't need to watch, Grandma, because my life isn't going to be like this."

Instead she took to heart the words of the civil rights leader the Rev Jesse Jackson when he spoke at an assembly near her home. "He said that excellence was the best deterrent to racism and excellence was the best deterrent to sexism. I went home and I wrote that on my mirror and it became my personal motto. No matter what I do, I'm going to strive to be the best, and I've maintained that for almost every aspect of my life."

At 19, she won her first broadcasting job. anchoring the local news in Nashville, and from there she moved to a bigger station in Baltimore. She impressed the bosses on a rival station so much that they offered her a chat show called People Are Tolking. Seven years later she moved to Chicago to host a morn-

ing chat show, AM Chicago. Within a year it was renamed The Oprah Winfrey Show. Since 1986, when it was syndicated across America, it has remained the highest rated talk show on American television. Its success has meant that she has been unable to pursue her



has acted before, notably winning a best supporting actress Oscar nomination for her role in Steven Spielberg's The Color Purple in 1985. but the Oprah show dominates her

For Winfrey, this has brought incredible riches and power. She does not, however, harbour any political ambitions. "Not one. Having this big voice on television is what every poliocian wants. They all try and get on the show and I don't do politics on the show."

She does, however, believe that her programme has a responsibili-

America. While competitors such as Jerry Springer have taken the format she pioneered relentlessly downmarket, Winfrey has moved in the opposite direction. "I'm not so much saddened by the way it's going as stunned. I saw Jerry Springer the other day when a guy pulled his pants down on the air. He walks out and he says. This is

what she wants', and he pulls his pants down and literally whipped out his penis. I couldn't believe it was happening. "I can understand how you can get beaten in the ratings. I'm intro-

es." She has not felt any pressure to compete with Springer. "Absolutely not. I couldn't do it. I would have to get out of television. Some programmers said that we would lose ratings - and I did for a while but there has to be a belief which you bold on to. You do what is right and then other people will finally come to their senses. Jerry Springer started to beat us last year and people were saying to me. 'What are

you going to do about it? And I said. 'Nothing, there is nothing I can do about it.'

things that might help people to think differently about their lives. It makes their lives better - that's the whole purpose of it."

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There are signs, though, that she feels it may soon be time to move, . on. She is involved with plans tolaunch an all-woman cable channel . in America, a film and television production company, and she has. indicated that when her current contract ends in 2002, that may be the right time to call it a day. "By that time I will be talked out."

"I feel a great social and moral re- Beloved opens in Britain on March 5.,

Shaw's actor. But you cannot have everything.

Artificial Eye, 15, 1997 SEMI-COMIC Russian dra-

ma by Pavel Chukhrai about a six-year-old boy's life in the 1950s with a substitute father.

a thief who poses as a soldier.

THE THIEF

## "A REMARKABLE FILM

ASTONISHINGLY BOLD AND POIGNANT. IT'S BRAVE, IMAGINATIVE AND ALMOST UNBEARABLY MOVING."



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A FABLE BY ROBERTO BENIGNI

**7**ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE BEST DIRECTOR BEST ACTOR

STARTS TOMORROW AT SELECTED CINEMAS NATIONWIDE NOW SHOWING IN THE WEST END

## Shotgun blast from the past

Warner DVD, 1969

THE DVD format bestows terrific sound and image on Sam Peckinpah's wonderful western about ageing outlaws and their last hurrah, a true American classic. But the special boon of this release is the 33-minute documentary. The Wild Bunch: An Album in Montoge, which interfaces shots from the finished picture with behind-the-scenes footage of Peckinpah choreograph-ing the action. Essential.

**■ FIRELIGHT** Bueno Visto, 15. 1997

AFTER conceiving a child for an English landowner in a mercenary deal a Swiss gover-ness in the mid-19th century hires herself as tutor to her own offspring. William Nichol-son, author of Shadowlands, wrote and directed this pretty but fatuous costume drama in which the main characters look peeved and srunted. trapped by repressed desires. Stephen Dillane is the landowner: Sophie Marceau, that French embodiment of youth. sex and sauce, is the tass reined in by a governess's weeds, it is all very hard to be-

lieve. A rental release. **LOLITA** Fox Pathé. IS. 1907

SUBTLETY goes thataway as Adrian Lyne, director of 9:-Weeks and Fotal Attraction. turns his hand to Nabokov's novel about a college professor's obsession with pubescent girls. Jeremy Irons plays the during prof. Humbers Humbert, Dominique Swain, from Malibu High School, is the 12-year-old nymphet, first in-troduced twirling a bare leg while reading a magazine by a lawn sprinkler. When Stanley Kubrick filmed the novel in 1961, he behaved chastely.

Lyne opts for obvious erotic



distinguished offerings of Alex-

ander Korda's London Films.

non of Othello is still brimful

ol fascinating features. Look

though this romantic trifle wrapped round a stage produc-

in awe at Gertrude Lawrence. and young Rex Harrison leaping through doors. Catch wood shrieker Miriam Hopthose sheep grazing in Hyde kins as the drama-critic secretary who sets the plot in mo-Park and the attractive score. tion by falling for Sebastian Alas, there is also that Holly-



Punch that cow: Robert Ryan in The Wild Bunch

Chukhrai recalls the era's, hopes, injustices and survival tactics with a good mix of social observation and human, drama. The dishevelled ending is unfortunate, for it stops. a decent film being an outstanding one. Exemplary acting, with no cute antics from the child and plenty of roguish charm from the (Vladimir Mashkov).

GEOFF BROWN

Julie Walters Ciaran Hinds Ciaran McMenamin Nuala O'Neill **Fitanic Town** JULIE WALTERS "GLORIOUS" **GIVES HER ALL** IN A STIRRING, STARTLING PERFECT DRAMA" A film by Roger Michell

Starts Tomorrow ABC

# Into Malick's art of darkness

NEW MOVIES: In future, all war films will be made in the

ishadow of The Thin Red Line, says James Christopher

fier 20 years' absence the legendary film-maker Terrence Maiick (see article below ight) returns with a masterpiece about the Second World-War that will influence the making of war films, perhaps for ever. He's looked at war in a way few directors have ever dared: as a piece of art.

lased on a novel by James ones, The Thin Red Line charts a single bloody episode in the conflict between American troops and the Japanese for the South Pacific island of adalcanal, Ordered to seafre a ridge C-for-Charlie company fearfully emerges in the metal guts of a battle ip, piles into landing craft d splashes through the surf on to the deserted beaches of a pical paradise. The soldiers to make friends with the inmable, Zen-like Melanein natives. Then the glitterne cast is cut to ribbons when airing siege to a lush hill de-aided by a Japanese machine

The most striking feature of this suicidal mission is the sheer beauty with which it is shot. There are no heroes, and orgiastic blood-soaked phanies. There is carriage, idity, waste, primal fear. squalid brutality. But most of all there is a dreathlike disession with the natural cauty of the island that makes the film both dazzling

Matick spent \$55 million wild months editing an unpre-beliented million feet of celluloid. The result is staggering and perpleting. The plot, like war, is shattered. What tragments of narrative there are are injected into dense, rumbling, barely comprehensible voiceovers. These vary from Ben Chaplin's romantic flashbacks to his wife to Nick Nolte's savage colonel, torn between medals and thoughts of mortality. Most actors have little to cling to apart from the odd raft of speech, a rifle, and an endless chain of cigarentes. They fade in and out of focus, grimly hanging on to threads that Malick never bothers to tie. On their own, these splintered lives don't make much sense. They don't make much sense together, either. But their interior thoughts are the true landscape of the film.

Despite the narrative chaos. or even because of it, there are fantastic performances. Elias Koteas sweats despair as the captain who spearheads the mission. John Čusack leads a hair-raising assault on the bunker. Sean Penn's sergeant cynically picks up the pieces. Only Jim Caviezel's fearless. zoned-out Private Witt seems in tune with the devastation. Through his eyes we get the clearest clue of Malick's vision. By the time the company achieves its objective the sol-diers have long since lost the parts of themselves that made this paradise worth taking in the first place. In one scene, a soldier smilingly reclines on a heap of dying Japanese sol-diers, nursing a bag of gold

rom the pa

teeth and a pair of pliers. Malick hasn't in fact made a war movie at all, but a ravishing trip into the heart of darkness. John Toli's fabulous camerawork caresses huge swaths of grassland, bamboo and forest. Here the grubby mechanics of war are turned into pure art. The dizzy collage of images does not try to solve a narrative conundrum but poses one of its own: why? There is no.

simple answer.
In You've Got Mail, Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan under-

The Thin Red Line Odeon Leicester Square

15, 170 mins An extraordinary meditation on war by Terrence Malick

You've Got Mail Warner Village West Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan Painted Angels ABC Piccadilly 15, 108 mins

Bleak period piece about women in a Wild West brothel Titanic Town ABC Swiss Centre 15. 102 mins

Julie Walters excels in grim review of Northern Ireland's Troubles Perdita Durango Virgin Haymarket

Tex-Mex psychopaths run amok in careless Urban Legend **UCI** Whiteleys -18, 96 mins Dire horror flick slashes

through American

COMPUS.

highly paid romantics in Hollywood. Their old-fashioned screen chemistry is matchless. Their last cinematic pairing, Sleepless in Seattle, now looks like a warm-up to this slushy comedy that neatly logs on to the Internet phenomenon.

Hanks is the shark-like manager of a giant chain of discount bookstores. Ryan is the embattled owner of a tiny children's bookshop. While they publicly badmouth each other, they unwittingly share their most intimate thoughts online. The trick of Nora Eph-ron's sharply written romance is that they fall in love via e-mail without revealing who they are or what they do. The irony is that they are more thrilled with their virtual romance than with each other.

anks continually blunders into Ryan in cases or at publishing parties. She hates what he stands for: he can't resist baiting her. The comedy is irresistible. The romance is page-turning nonsense. The idealism about saving small bookshops gets well and truly stuffed. Being Ameri-can, as President Clinton foreyer reminds us, is about looking forward, not backward. And if this isn't the corporate dream, 1990s Hollywood style, I don't know what is.

Ryan's resistance to her shop being put out of business by a homogenised theme park is simply a device to get up Hanks's cute nose. It works wonders on Hanks's e-mail, if not his guilt, or our credulity. Typically it's he who puts two and two together first. How he wins her round is the film's artless triumph. It's a face-off between his plump, boyish checks, shadowy chins and scrunched-up brow, and

Ryan's blonde dishevelled bob and amazing posting smile. The way her face crumples at the unmasking will break the stoniest heart. It broke mine.

in Jon Sanders's look at one of the great untold stories of the Wild West. In Painted Angels the awful business of servicing humourless, bearded frontiersmen is performed by a dour collection of immigrant wom-en in a town so bleak it may as well be on Mars. The sex, like their lives, is joyless and me-chanical. Their painted faces fail to disguise the fact that

smelly punters at the bar and the women's drab wooden cribs. The tight-lipped Mad-ame, Brenda Fricker, runs the understaffed brothel like a Victorian parlour, complete with piano music and games for the rare visit by local bigwigs. When the girls reach the end of their shelf life they are unceremoniously dumped. "Is this the New World?" wonders Bronagh Gallagher's lost and damaged Irish prostitute, kneeling on the grave of one of her peers. It's a sad, relentless portrait of female desperation.

bricks through the window and her children to get bullied at school. Her droll husband, Ciaran Hinds, promptly develons an ulcer and her 16-yearold daughter, Nuala O'Neill,

with all the ingredients of a su

over, bottled or shot. It's wild, stylish, and deeply boring.

The less said about Urban

There are no romantic frills

they are too young, too old or

The camera mercilessly plods between the silent.

itanic Town, directed by Roger Michell, is similarly stuck in the past - 1972 to be exact - and similarly depressing. Here Julie Walters excels as a foolhardy mother-of-four, determined to remove the Troubles from the streets of her Catholic estate in West Belfast. The British Army treats the place like a war zone, IRA gunmen pop in and out of people's houses like meals-onwheels. Walters becomes a local celebrity after sbe turns her anti-shooting protests into peace petition, inviting

seeks romantic refuge with a slimy medical student. There are meetings with oily British politicians, and bumbling knees-up with the IRA. The issues are as fresh as old bones. and half as lively. It's a bravura performance by Walters, but the documentary-style film says little and solves nothing. Perdita Durango is blessed perb, trashy flick but criminal-

fails to titillate. The barely dressed Rosie Perez. all breasts and wicked-looking fingernails, is a Tex-Mex chick with a killer stare. Her romantic nemesis is a voodoo psychopath, Javier Bardem, dressed in snake-skin boots and the weirdest haircut since Kaja-googoo. Together they make-beautiful maybem — or try to. They kidnap a squeaky-clean pair of all-American teenagers ostensibly to eat them - but end up dragging them to Las Vegas with a truckload of foe-

tuses to sell to an unscrupu-

lous cosmetics factory. Various scum of the earth are run

Legend the better. It's a shameful American campus horror flick that relies entirely on an overworked migraine-inducing orchestra for its moments of Gothic suspense. Here, vari-ous students are knocked off in the manner of contemporary urban myths as taught by the weird professor, Robert Englund. Think axeman in

the back of your car. God, it



Nick Nolte tries to get through to some form of reality in The Thin Red Line, director Terrence Malick's first film in 20 years and a work of genius

What makes Terrence Malick tick? Only he knows, and he isn't saying, writes Lesley O'Toole

all eyes will be on Gwyneth Paltrow's choice of designer gown. The more cerebral will be riveted by the prospect of seeing Terrence Malick, the rechisive director of The Thin Red Line, in person.

A director of iconic status with only two previous films under his belt (both also meandering, cerebral and largely devoid of plot). Malick shares the mythic profile of Stanley Kubrick and George Lucas. Neither, though, can compete with Malick's particular brand of mysteriousness

In 1994 a journalist visiting a New York theatre workshop staged by Malick was issued the following edict by a publicist: "You can't speak to him, look at him, make eye contact with him. You can't even wink at him." In 1993 the Los Angeles Times trumpeted a Malick story with the headline "Look who we found". Old-school Hollywood journalists, meanwhile, silently mock neophytes



Mythic status: Terrence Malick shuns publicity

## You can look, but you can't touch

Malick and who have had

only a distant one in the past".

If the pair's account is true,

their connection was not only

far from distant but one made

cised his director. The next big

requesting Malick interviews in connection with The Thin Red Line - he has not given one since 1974. He would not even allow himself to be photographed by the film's unit photographer. He did, though. supply one photo, taken by an uncredited family member.

Unfortunately for the film, none of its big names promoted the film either. John Travolta - whose role is barely more than a cameo - even refused a namecheck on the poster since The Thin Red Line's American release coincided with that of A Civil Action, for which he hoped to achieve a Best Actor nomination. Travolta failed but The Thin Red Line succeeded beyond anyone's wildest expectation, garnering seven Academy Award nominations including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay for Mal-ick's adaptation of Jim Jones's

Malick's whereabouts for the past 20 years are an enduring mystery. Mike Medavoy, Malick's agent in the 1970s. now heads Phoenix Pictures which raised the money and found a distributor for The Thin Red Line. "Terry always intended to take a year off," he says. "Soon it was two years, then four and before I knew it. a lot of time had gone by."

ot in dispute is that Malick lived between Paris and Austin. married a French woman and established an involved business and personal relationship with a pair of producers named Robert Geisler and John Roberdeau. When Malick expressed an interest in adapting The Thin Red Line. Geisler and Roberdeau optioned the film rights and, by all accounts, shepherded the project a considerable way to-

wards production.

By 1995 Martin Sheen and Kevin Costner were among those at an early reading of Malick's script. Malick later met Brad Pitt, Edward Norton and Johnny Depp before deciding to cast mainly unknown actors. When Fox 2000 Pictures took up distribution after Sony Pictures dropped out, its head insisted on some star names, albeit in small roles - and the

casting frenzy began.

Not a single "name" who participated in early script readings was cast in the film and none has vented any frustration. Those who did vent at length were Geisler and Roberdeau in Vanity Fair magazine last year, claiming not only that they were banned from the film's set but that a statement was faxed to an American journalist after he visited the set calling the pair "imposters and confidence men who thing who did emerge is 30-year-old Jim Caviezel whose role is, unequivocally, have no connection with Mr

: enormous expense Others with cause for frustration include one of the unknown actors who, before the film's release, seemed destined for stardom. Adrien Brody's publicists went into overdrive as their client was widely hailed as the next big thing. Though Brody's role has all but vanished, he has not criti-

the lead. Caviezel, like a couple of other lesser-known actors whose roles are substantial - Dash Mihok and Elias ick in a way that those actors left on the cutting-room floor may not have.

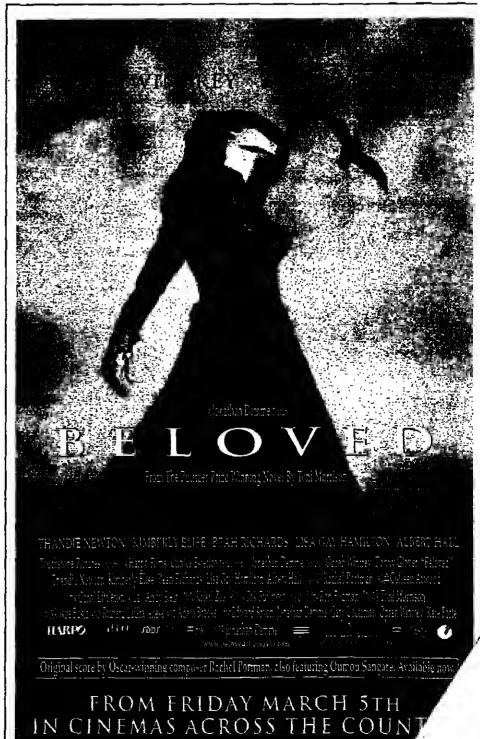
Caviezel, like Geisler and Roberdeau, was mesmerised by Malick after their first meeting and describes him in hyperbolic terms. "He is an extraordinary human being but extremely humble. He is a better man than he is a director.

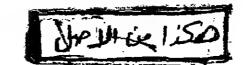
He's a brilliant director but he always puts other people be-fore him. That's what I admired and want to emulate." Dash Mihok worked every

day of the shoot, "I can't explain it but we felt comfortable with each other. Our line of communication was really open, whereas a lot of other people didn't have that line. Terry didn't have as much of a grasp on their characters or themselves and they found that tough." The film's Australian pro-

ducer, Grant Hill, is not alone in insisting his boss is "really ninny and very ous". He even went so far as to engage in a spirited exchange of props with Steven Spielberg since The Thin Red Line and Saving Private Ryan were being filmed at the same time. What sort of exchange? "We'd send Mr Spielberg one of our infantry jackets," says Hill, "and he'd send Terry one of his Ranger jackets."







LONDON

THE TEMPEST. Actors Touring Thesrefs new production; only three actus, with flose English as Prospero, and up-to-the-morant images and sounds Watermans Arts Centre (p181-568 1176). Tonight Sat, 7.45pm (§)

ALBAN BERG QUARTET: Two

iorics in this concert as the renowned string quartet and the flustrious plants! Alfred Brendel get together for an evening of chamber music by Mozart and Haydin. Festival Hatt (0171-960 4242). 7onght, 7 30pm. (5)

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Pacific Northwest Ballot's second programme during its London visit is deorge Bolanchine's grandly classical interpretation of Shakespeare's cornet fantasy, (See review of Prog 1, right.) Sadier's Wells (0171-713 6000).

Opens tonight, 7 30pm. (§)

NASH ENSEMBLE: The Poulenc Centenary Senes concludes on a high note with an evening including the world premiere of Meirlon Bowen's arrangement of Debussy's La Boile a jource for reciter and entemble, with actress Zok Warramaker. Conductor is Deepo Masson

is Diego Masson Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

CARDIFF: Gwyn Hughes Jones makes his debut as Rodolfo in Gora Javafelt's haunting production for Wetsh National Opera of Puccini's La boheme. With Alwyn Mellor as

☐ THE GREEN SNAKE: Mask Studio's interpretation of Goethe's tary tale The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lify, done with puppets and,

of course, masks Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111).

☐ VIA DOLOROSA: Four remaining

ELSEWHERE

venerable musical institution forces in this concert as the

**RECOMMENDED TODAY** 

# **ARTS**

**POP** Oasis's stablemates

# In praise of the real thing.

Seattle-based troupe introduced itself to London with a "Great American Choreographers" programme. A ritle like that puts a lot of faith in the four men whose work it encompasses. Since one of those men is Balanchine, we know at least one of them will live up to the billing. As for the rest, though, if they truly represent Pacific North-wesi Ballet's idea of "great" then American choreography

is in big trouble. Kevin O'Day's Aract. made in 1997 to celebrate the company's 25th anniversary, opens the programme. Like so

DANCE Pacific Northwest Ballet Sadler's Wells

much modern American ballet, it is in thrall to Balanchine. owing everything to the master's sleek abstraction of the Classical form. Yet Aract is a pallid and studious piece of Neo-Classical writing (set to vivid piano pieces by Graham Fltkin, played live). Flashy lifts offer some relief from the inoffensive waffle of the duets. quartets and ensemble work. but with so few distinguishing characteristics to O'Day's writing, it is no wonder the ten

dancers lacked personality.

Donald Byrd's in the courtyard was receiving its world premiere. Set to De Snelheid by the Dutch composer Louis Andriessen, the work is inspired by the choreographer's acute intellectual and emotional responses to turbulent social issues", but the piece

MUCH has changed in the 30

years since Colosseum re-leased their first album, and

history has not been kind to

the British jazz-rock they pio-

neered. The genre was initially

welcomed as an important pro-

gression which liberated pop

from the tyranny of the three

minute, three-chord song, but

mainstream audiences quickly

tired of jazz-rock's pretensions

and eventually rejected the

rambling virtuoso displays

which were its stock-in-trade.

The band have clearly tried

to take this on board since re-

the key - four hands at the pi-ano, four movements to the falls short of such ambition. The pugnacity and voluptuousness suit the four dancers, but beyond that Byrd doesn't leave much of an impression. Kent Stowell, who runs this company, contributed Quaternary, with music by Rachmani-nov (Suite No 2 for Two

music, four men and four women on stage - and that fact, reflected in the parameters of the choreography, gives the piece a dynamic and purpose. Again, a debt to Balanchine is acknowledged in Stowell's open lines, academic gusdemith's score for string or-

to and splintering formations. But with so many great Balanchine ballets around, why bother making indifferent ballets in the Balanchine mould? The programme ended with Balanchine's The Four Temperaments, made to reflect the changing moods of Hin-

chestra and piano. After so much pale imitation, the real thing arrived with the force of a thunderbolt. Balanchine's brazen reshaping of Classical symmetry; his confident glee in cracking the sculpted lines of centuries of dance; his assur-ance of form and his bound-

to his daring and imagination. Amazingly, it feels as fresh as if it were made today. What it does it say about the state of American choreography in the 1990s that the most exciting thing on this bill is a ballet more than 50 years old?

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Making a point: Pacific Northwest Ballet in Kent Stowell's indifferent Quaternary, which owes a large debt to the work of Balanchine

## performences only of David Hare's thoughtful and polynami account of a searching was to israel and Palestine-Ahmolda (0171-359 4404), (5)

**NEW WEST END SHOWS** 

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London ■ House tull, returns only N Some seats available 🗆 Seats at all prices

 BARTHOLOMEW FAIR: Laurence
 Boswell's jolly production of Ben
 Jonson's numburators comedy transfers from Stratford, Young Vic (0171-928 6363), [6]

THE NUALAS; kish all-girl satince singing xio bring harmony, hashiy and a sharp lock at humanity Dritt Half (0171-637 8270). (§)

LIFT OFF: Two cool guys, one black, one acting to be black, lace

SHOCKHEADED PETER: The

Evelyn Glennie performs

a premiere in Glasgow

MANCHESTER: Nick Witton, Briar Deacon and Edward de Souza in Good Company's tour of samuel Pepys, The Secret Diaries: tales from Mr P's gadabout youth, Sue

smister show by the Cultural Inclustratem with the Tiger Ullies and Marty Jacques's talsetto screech.

OFFENDING THE CAVEMAN: Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's now comedy, tracing the ongins of the manhwaren difference back to the caves.

Apollo (0171-494 5070.)

THE RIOT: Co-production with Kneekigh Theatre of Comwell, presenting Nick Darke's new play, set at the turn of the certainy; the army is brought in to rouell the rivalry between two towns.

Cottesloe (0171-452 3000). [5]

#### FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

**NEW RELEASES** 

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated cop in a small lown. Nick Molte and James Cobum put in prometric performences as father and son, caught in a cycle father and son, caught in a cycle

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18) David Kane's buczy comedy charts the mess six Camden Town mastits make of their love lives. With Kathy Burka, Jennifer Bride, Douglast Henshall, Dougray Scott, Catheone McComrack and Ian Hert.

HOLY MAN (PG): Eddie Murphy's naive guns and Jeff Goldblum's sleazy TV executive team up to self inferior products on a shopping channel Ghasily stuff.

FOREIGN LAND (ICA): Strangely graphing underclass thriller about two young extes set in Brazil and Lisbon A mumph of quality over quantity. . NEWS FROM THE GOOD LORD (ICA). Over the lop French comedy

from Didier Le Pecheur, Sex weindos surreal patches of tunacy CURRENT

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War fable strictes a disturbing comedy into the Holocaust. It's supremely well acted, but the comic treatment of survival in a death camp but best proported.

HIDEOUS KINKY (15): Kate Winsle plays a naive young mother who takes her two young daughters on the happle trail to Morocco in the early 1970s. Beautifully shot film by Gillies Medicinnon with Said Taghmaoul, Bella Riza and Carrie Mullan. SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15):

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Ripping year about the struggling, upstart William Shakespeare, with senous quill problems, seaual as well as mky. A cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, Gwyneth Patrow erools as the Bard's cross-dretsang muse. John Madden directs.

### Let there be on mins

Pianos). The number four is

POP

Colosseum Croydon

forming five years ago with the "classic" line-up of leader Jon Hiseman (drums) and cofounder Dick Heckstall-Smith (saxophones), together with Dave Greenslade (keyboards). Clem Clempson (guitar). Mark Clarke (bass) and Chris

Farlowe (vocals). Their set at the Fairfield Halls on Monday featured a high proportion of numbers

from their most recent album. Bread & Circuses, which eschews the improvisational gymnastics for a more downto-earth, pub-rock approach.

Unfortunately, songs such Watching Your Every Move, with its heavy, sub-Cream riff. and The Playground, a ponderous, prog-

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LAST 2 WEEKS

rock dirge, were so gruesomely ordinary that you quickly found yourself longing for the old, familiar excesses.

These duly arrived in the shape of The Valentyne Suite. which was once the band's pièce de resistance, but which now came across as little more than a 20-minute stretch of showboating by rote.

By far the best part of the evening was Hiseman's solo during High Time, a tenminute exploration of his double-bass-drum kit that combined rhythmic ingenuity with almost superhuman strength. But, like his colleagues, Hiseman could profitably have traded most of his awesome skills for a decent song. Indeed, it was depressing to think that six musicians of this calibre could not find something better to do with them-

selves on a Monday night. DAVID SINCLAIR

## Creation's big bangers

less musical energy: all attest

IN THE clothes business, labels often signify quality. In the record business, this is rarer but it happens. Sixties soul had Tamla and Stax: jazz has ECM. Such branding is less common in rock, but one exception is Creation Records, the home of Oasis . . . and 3 Colours Red. Until their recent hit, Beautiful Day, the only dis-tinguishing feature of 3 Colours Red seemed to be that

they were signed to Alan Mc-Gee's label. Now, though, they can claim appearances on Top of the Pops and a long stay on the Radio I playlist.

But if anyone in this full house at the Waterfront was hoping for a night of stringdrenched ballads, they were in for a rude shock: 3 Colours Red kept their sensitive side

well hidden as they scorched through a series of drumdriven anthems. Songs from their recent second album, Revolt, are stripped of all extras, like a new saloon gutted for stock-car racing.

Their opener. Song on the Radio, is a punk beich: Paranoid People is a Lennonesque chant, endlessly repeating its slogan like a demonstration circling a roundabout. These new tracks are mixed with old favourites which are greeted with roars of delight.

Even in their pared-down state, the songs retain some of their individual identity, albeit plundered from pop's past. One moment there are Sladelike choruses; the next there are echoes of Def Leppard or the Beastie Boys. When singer and bassist Pete Vuckovic strips off his shirt to reveal his sweating torso, it is hard not to

think of the Stranglers. Their set may lack subtlety. Lebut it is not short of energy. Keith Baxter's clattering drum beats sweep all before them: the guitars of Chris McCormack and Ben Harding are dragged along in the undertow, surfacing occasionally to supply trills that snag in the brain. If 3 Colours Red were a clothes label, it would be adidas, not Armani.

JOHN STREET

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Meior active mas

A see page 47 of metro A in Salisia and the time

Labour

of

laughs

SOMEONE in Plymouth has it in for new Labour in a big way. Pete Lawson's new play

at the Drum Theatre gleefully rakes the Milibank muck by bringing Molière's great saure Tartuffe bang up to date. Tartuffe is a scathing attack on the hypocrisy of the 17th-century clerics whose austere

appearance conceals an avid thirst for wealth and power. The Imposter is a scathing attack on the hypocrisy of the spin-doctors, speechwriters and image consultants whose lip service to party policy masks ruthless ambition.

In the new version, Tarruffe is the spin-doctor Svengali to Orgon's politically ambitious

northern businessman. He

moves into Orgon's house.

The imposter

Plymouth.

propositions his wife, Elmire,

tries to marry his daughter.

and eventually, when he is exposed, threatens to bankrupt the lot of them. Only Tony

Blair can save the day -

though, naturally, not out of the goodness of his heart.

Let's be honest here:

Tartuffe is blatantly contempo-

rary right down to the Paul

Smith suits, the housing loans

and the expensive minimalist interiors. Designer Matthew Wright's well-constructed set

is a corner of Bolton which is

There is a great deal of satiri-

cal mileage in spin-speak, and

the script milks it mercilessly.

To the children's dismay, they

are getting tough on parties, and the causes of parties. "I'll

be Labour and you be Lib Dem." says Tartuffe, trying to

get Elmire to give him access

It's all pacey, knockabout

fun. The cast are uniformly good too. Andree Evans as Or-gon's fearsome mother looks disturbingly like Teresa Gor-

man. Dermot Kerrigan plays Tartuffe with insinuatingly

oily plausibility. Fred Ridge-way as Orgon is self-impor-

tant enough to be convincingly

taken in by his flattery. Kim

Thomson makes a tantalising

temptress as Elmire and

cally blunt as dabbling domes-

tic Dorine, here reborn as the

People's Cleaner.

forever Notting Hill.

to her third way.

THEATRE

Fay Weldon premiere

**ARTS** 

Approximation of the following process of the control of the contr

NEW CLASSICAL CDS

Vengerov plays Brahms

# Ethics and the clone rangers

stage has become a glitzy television studio, complete with spangled background, dancing fruit to acknowledge the Banana Council's sponsorship and a slick, sneering host. The Harry Harper Ethics Show is going out live, and, blinking in the "hot sear", sits tonight's guest, the famous geneticist Richie Baker.

Is Fay Weldon giving us a play about the quandaries created by scientific progress or an almost more topical satire on in-yer-sool television? The answer is both, with plenty about family and gender poli-tics thrown in, which is why the piece is a mess and thin in parts. It is a spirited, enjoyable mess, though, brimming with curiosity and moral concern. Are geneticists, as Harry alleges, doing Lucifer-like things to human embryos and DNA? How far can we push Richie's counter-argument that "every time we take an antibiotic we

, thwart nature's plan"? These are grave questions, but they are, inevitably, skimpily explored. Inevitably, because they are raised on a television show that Weldon is busily exposing as vulgar and exploitative, ie, her excuse for

big bang

and the second



mounting a Shavian debate trivialises that debate.
Inevitably, because we can-

not consider the issues disinterestedly when Michael Cashman's prosecutor is a cynical monster and David Hargreaves's defendant a digni-fied, likeable gent. The person-alities unfairly tilt the ethical and intellectual balance. Inevitably, too, because interest shifts from Richie the prof to Richie the husband of nice. old-fashioned Alice and Richie the father of earnest feminist May, caring therapist Rowan and aggressive Rose.

They emerge from the hospitality room to answer Harry's impertinent questions about Dad and see embarrassing family scenes (a lesbian affair here, false memory syndrome there) re-enacted by their younger selves: And then, just as the first-act blackout strikes. Harry hits them with the big one. I could half-disguise this surprise by remind-



Human host Michael Cashman with a sponsoring banana introduces television's The Harry Harper Ethics Show in Fay Weldon's satirical drama

ing you that in 1993 Weldon wrote a prescient novel called The Cloning of Joanna May. But I cannot be so coy. The preposterous fact is that in the 1950s, when that eminent sheep's great-great-grandparents were munching grass, Pa surreptitiously dealt with Ma's infertility in Dolly style. "But he never brought his work home," wails Diane Fletcher's Mum before suc-

cumbing to rage, affection, for-giveness, et al. The "daugh-ters" also veer this way and that, one getting in a dig at mankind by explaining that Carol Royle's May is "vile and violent" because Dad tried to make her a male. But suppose you and yours discovered you came from Frankenstein's lab. Could your emotions be dealt with in an act lasting some 40 minutes? It's a good fault,

packing a play with material bizarre and provocative enough to sustain half a million conferences; but even Bill Alexander's admirably direct production could not stop me leaving the theatre with my head feeling like an overpopulated, overstimulated anthill.

BENEDICT

#### NIGHTINGALE

ble ECM New Series: this

time their high-speed camera

lens focuses on the music of

Charles Ives. The four violin

sonatas he chose to acknow-ledge and keep all relate cycli-cally to each other — and, in-

deed, to much of the rest of

this maverick composer's own

In these sharp-eyed perform-

ances from the Swiss violinist

Hansheinz Schneeberger

(who, by the way, premiered Bartók's First Violin Concerto) and the Canadian pianist Dan-

iel Cholette, we hear ghosts of lves's own marches, dances

and ragtimes, and echoes of

other composers too. After all,

according to Stravinsky, Ives

"quietly set about devouring

the contemporary cake before

anyone else had even found a

ing century: the popular gath-

erings of rural New England.

the ambiguous joys of harvest

home, the songs of summer

camps. "This is not music. It

makes no sense." Schneeberg-

er and Cholette gainsay the

baffled German violinist

whom Ives initially and unsuc-

cessfully tried to interest in

these extraordinary works,

and vindicate the composer's

So here is Ives and his turn-

seat at the same table".

Queen Elizabeth Hall. They wore blue, purple and green: a perfect accompaniment to the bold sounds of the Britten Sinfonia, one of the liveliest chamber groups in the land. Nothing too sombre in the programme either with the exception of Beethoven's Coriolan Overture. This was a concert sponsored by the Post Office, with two works commissioned by BT; so immediate communication was important. A pity, then, that the open-

right shirt night at the

ing work, a first performance, had nothing much to communicate. This was Conversations for Orchestra, a BT commission by Debbie Wiseman, film and TV soundtracks. The rhythms chugged; brass, woodwind and strings searched for memorable material. Wiseman seemed not to know what to do with her left arm: but then, alas, there was not much music to conduct. Afterwards Nicholas Cleobury took over. whisking his players through Richard Rodney Bennett's Partita, another BT commission, amiably juggling the pastoral musings and jogging rhythms of the century's mainstream

English tradition. This was the work of a master craftsman. For English music with a personal voice, however, we had to wait for David Matthews's Burnham Wick, an adorable piece conceived during a walk in Essex marshland. A plink from the harp summons airy strings and a corn bunting call on the clarinet. Another dose of rural nostalgia? Not quite. There is trouble afoot in Matthews's countryside. Strings launch into an impassioned, hurt elegy, and when the solo vi-olin's skylark ascends in a nod

to Vaughan Williams, it is a 999 call from an endangered spe-Throughout the evening, the

CONCERT Britan Sprinte

Message received

Sinfonia's members ravished the ear with precise ensemble work and radiant solos. Indeed, in Strauss's Second Horn Concerto, it was hard to know what to admire more: the spirited accompaniment, or the glorious velvet of the soloist, David Pyart, who rode to fame with this music in the BBC's Young Musician of the Year contest in 1988. For all these ear-tickling de-

lights, however, it was a relief when Beethoven's Coriolan Эупцики along. This was music of iron and sinew, in Cleobury's hands fearsomely strong but nimble.

#### NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Early Mozart opera; a mature Brahms concerto; and wild Ives sonatas from Patricia Petitbon, while count constitutes any more of case from the ever-impredicta-

#### **OPERA**

Schäfer/Petitbon/Bostridge/ Paton/Ewing/Les Arts Florissants/Christie : Erato 3984 25-90-2 (2 CDs)

· £31.99 ERATO's Entführung has the stamp of William Christie all over it. His orchestra. Les Arts Florissants, is fleet-footed, each instrument sharply defined. Christie has no time for old operatic sweats. His cast is young and alert, as it should \_\_ be for this early Mozart, the voices light in texture.

Take Jan Bostridge's Belmonte. Under Christie he is almost a schoolboy, impetuous in his search for his beloved Konstanze. Years of singing lieder have taught him how to handle the German language and make each word count.

Christine Schäfer's Kon-stanze also proves that lieder training pays dividends in the opera house. Ach, ich liebte is shaped with great skill, but the soprano is a touch hard, legacy perhaps of spending too long with contemporary opera repertoire. But once into Martern aller Arten Schäfer is fearlessly defiant in an aria which sends many sopranos scuttling away from the role. There is a delectable Blonde

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CHANGING TIMES

Alan Ewing turns Osmin Into a more sympathetic figure than usual. A sparkling account of a piece well sprinkled with Turkish glitter.

JOHN HIGGINS

#### **ORCHESTRAL**

**BRAHMS** Violin Concerto: Violin Sona. ta No 3

Vengerov/Chicago Symphony Orchestra/Barenboim Teldec 063017144-2 \* \* \* £15.99

THE booklet for this record-

ing of Brahms's Violin Concerto includes an entertaining picture of the soloist Maxim Vengerov and conductor Daniel Barenboim arm-wrestling. It is an apt image for the traditional contest between soloist and orchestra in the Romantic concerto, though it would be untrue to suggest that this ac-

> CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

a battle royal than usual. What it does offer is a typi-

cally intense reading by both artists: Vengerov, as ever, bursts with impetuosity and technical wizardry. Baren-boim is no less forthright or engaging. The recording was made at a live concert in Chicaspontaneity of the occasion by contributing a partly improvised cadenza of his own.

The Vengerov/Barenboun partnership is seen in a different light in Brahms's Violin Sonata No 3. This, too, is a richly expressive performance, with an opening Allegro in which Vengerov soars high above the stave in magnificently sustained phrases.

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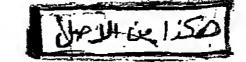
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## **BOOKS**

# What's caught in the Net

A substitute for religion or a realm of violent fantasy? Sadie Plant investigates cyberculture

he swift growth of the Net has been analysed in a variety of economie, technological and political terms. Margaret Wertheim's book introduces a spiritual element to this debate: the extraordinary popu-larity of the Net is, she argues, a response to the "profound psychosocial vacuum" at the neart of Western culture. The medieval ability to integrate spiritual and actual space has been wiped away by modernity, and cyberspace is now al-lowing this dualism to reassert itself. Cyberspace, according to Wertheim, is answering our spiritual needs.

The Pearly Gates of Cyberspace deals with some fascinating material as it moves through Dante's worlds, Newton's physical space, and Einstein's relativistic space en route to the Net which, it argues, marks something of a re-discovery of Danie's Heaven. Purgatory and Hell. Wertheim focuses on the cultural and individual significance of these changing conceptions of space, demonstrating the ways in which they have informed changing experiences of reality and identity, and ar-guing that cyberspace will have a dramatic influence on our understanding of the

world and the self. Wertheim is on strong and interesting ground with these historical arguments. But her more detailed attempts to map the contents of cyberspace on

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

to Dante's spaces are far less incisive. Although she takes issue with the "cyberspatial fronner rhetoric" of so many Cali-fornian Net enthusiasts, which casts the Net as an open space ripe for a new wave of colonisation and, as Wertheim writes, "hints at an ongoing cultural imperialism," her own attempt to make cyberspace a spiritual place with its own pearly gates is itself a perfect example of the colonialist attitudes she attacks. The dualistic thinking she examines and promotes makes everything depend on the separarion of form and matter, the spiritual and the physical, the soul and the body — which is also to say Heaven and Hell. good and bad, right and wrong, up and down: the morality comes free with the phi-losophy, and it all comes free with the online world,

Such thinking may make common sense in Wertheim's California, but it is by no means obvious to everyone. Although she tries "to finish on a note that is less Christocentric. less Eurocentric, and more universal," it would take far more than her few brief references to Australian Aboriginal cul-ture to make this anything more than a token move. And the theological tone of the book runs counter to far more than other cultural perspectives on space: cybernetics, the much neglected source of the prefix to this new space, is completely antitherical to the dual-



Heaven, Hell, Purgatory and Bondai Beach: "virtual surfing" in the front room - for many, cyberspace is a recreational rather than a spiritual place

istic hierarchies beloved of the West, and digital networks are the stuff of chaotic systems and complex interconnections which make a mockery of disfinctions between matter and form, and body and mind.

If Wertheim writes through a rear-view mirror which casts the Net as a new kind of spirit-ual home. Julian Dibbell understands it as a world in which identities, relationships and words themselves bear litwork in other kinds of space. He too makes a few bold references to "the basic ingredients of the human condition" but he is fascinated by the very fininess of cyberspace. And by con-centrating on the details of a network composed of myriads of tiny transactions which, regardless of their contents, allow cyberspace to grow. Dibbell probably says more about the scale and complexity of the network than any attempt to

view it as a whole.

1Ve 20%

CHANGING TIMES

See The Times on Monday for details

TOKEN COLLECT

THE PEARLY GATES OF CYBERSPACE By Margaret Wertheim Virago, £14.99 ISBN 186079 527 3

MY TINY LIFE By Julian Dibbell Fourth Estate, £16.99 ISBN 1 84115 058 4

My Tiny Life is an intelligent account of life in Lambda-MOO, one of the first online environments to spring up on the Net. It begins with the case of "rape in cyberspace" on which Dibbell famously reported for The Village Voice in 1994. The sadistic manipulation of the virtual inhabitants of LambdaMOO by one of their number, a certain Mr Bungle, shattered the peace and ended the air of innocence which then surrounded such

THE ASS TIMES

spaces. It also raised some fascinating questions about the status and significance of virtual events, the workings of power in cyberspace, and the status of conventional notions of free speech and accountability

in these new spaces.

Mr Bungle's activities also proropted Dibbell to move into LambdaMOO himself. He built spaces of his own, became entangled with the complex politics, psychologies, and economies of life online, and produced this stylish fusion of fictional. historical and autobiographical accounts of his ex-periences in LambdaMOO.

Fusing the dot-com linguistics of the online world with the flourishes of a Victorian mystery. My Tiny Life is a stylish attempt to convey the striking sense of reality which can be induced by cyberspace. Dibbell narrates events in the online world as though they were more real than his real life, which is described in the typeface of LambdaMOO.

e writes with great candour about the dramatic interplay between life online and his own real life. and his accounts of both these worlds are open and perceptive: he makes no apology for the sense of delight with which he experiences all the cliches of femininity when he assumes his first female persona, and takes great care to describe the thrills of sex on the screen in their own non-genital terms.

Dibbell's account of his tiny life might be too candid and ornate for some readers, but it is a thoughtful and original atcempt to deal with a world which is neither a virtual version of actual space nor a varia-tion on some older scheme. If Wertheim's cyberspace harks back to the pre-modern world. Dibbell's ony world is a novel space which has to be experienced in its own novel terms.

Sadie Plant's Zeros and Ones: Digital Women and the New Technoculture, is published by Fourth Estate. priced £6.99.

## Counter-attack with the knives of language

in a cupboard under the stairs of a wooden house in Fort de France, Martinique. The objects of his investigation - spiders, ants and earthworms - are mercilessly probed. An old razor blade introduces a spirit of scientific in-quiry to the proceedings. "He verified whether spiders and cockroaches could live without heads, or without stomachs."

Years later, the boy becomes a writer. Patrick Chamoiseau. Storytelling is his subject, and language the cradle of his idenrity. But this is an island where cultures and languages are layered on top of each other: the notion of a single idenoty is as meaningless as the attempt to treat any language as an instrument of precision.

Chamoiseau is the winner of France's Prix Goncourt for his novel. Texaco, also published in translation from the French and Creole by Granta. Childhood (translated by Carol Volk) is a slim memoir which combines with grace and exu-berance the half-remembered sensacions of the author's earliest years. It is intensely domestic, yet there is a kind of childlike wonder that gives his account the quality of being both

rich and strange. It is the child's delight in language which endures, and which most precisely portrays the sensation of being dominated by an outside force. The writer looks back on the boy's discovery of the supremacy of Creole and its ability to coin insults undreamt of in French.

This sense of subverting the designated. French, order of doing things becomes the theme of Solibo Magnificent Irranslated by Rose-Myriam Rejouis and Val Vinkokurovi. JILL WATERS

SOLIBO MAGNIFICENT By Patrick Chamoiseau Granta, £9.99 ISBN 1 86207 028 8 CHILDHOOD By Patrick Chamoiseau Granta, £5.99

ISBN 1 86207 243 4

lts an extraordinary novel, a spiritual detective story which uses the format of a police procedural to examine the death of the oral tradition in Creole. Solibo is a storyteller who collapses in front of an appreciative Fort de France audience: when help arrives in the form of the French-trained, procedure-obsessed police, all are immediately arrested on suspicion of being implicated in what is deemed a murder.

Chamoiseau is merciless and playful in his dissection of police methods. Procedure makes no allowance for mystery. It emerges that the question the police should be asking is not who killed him but Who is Solibo? It is a complex book, flitting between different perspectives

and literary forms. Although translated from the French there are strands of Creole left in the original. This is not to say that the translations of both these books are not alive with the possibility of language - they are. They teach a reader that, just as it was for Solibo's audience, "It was not about understanding what was said but about being open to it, letting it carry you away".

## Back to the jungle

By Jerry Raine Gollancz, £9.99 ISBN 0 575 06696 2

PHIL GATOR, a cross between EastEnders' Grant Mitchell and Brookside's Barry Grant, has been hiding out since he robbed a petrol station. But his smile gets wiped off his face when he gets soaked by a van the moment he returns to his suburban patch. He pays the driver back in the only language he knows
— a bash on the head and a few clouts in the stomach. But the punchbag, Stanley, is the father of hardman Frankie Bosser. And when Frankie returns from his hideout for his Dad's funeral, he decides to find out what happened to his father. Jerry Raine is master of the suburban crime thriller. His prose is compelling and his insight into the mind of criminals unsparing.

#### Bustle buster

A CLOSE RUN THING By Allian Maillineon Bantam, £15.99 ISBN 0 593 04373 1

IN the latest gunshot into the field of Napoleonic fiction we meet Matthew Hervey, a dapper cornet in the 6th Light Dragoons during the last days of the Wars. From the start Allan Mallinson, a serving cavalry officer himself, takes us to the heart of the battle in Toulouse, 1814, where in the first chapter alone there is enough tightening of girths and digging of spurs to satisfy the entire turnout of an under-16s Pony Club disco. And in the first of a roultipart series adventures we are introduced to the loves and

loyalties of the young Hervey. Mallinson is a fine writer with a pedantic mind and a flavour for romance who puts the story back into historical

#### Her, again

SCREWED Stories About Love & Sex Edited by Ruth Hessey and autha Trenoweth Allen Unwin, £7.99 ISBN 1 86448 755 0

SCREWED is an unimpressive collection of stories and would pass by unnoticed if it weren't for the final entry by Helen Fielding, creator of the monster otherwise known as Bridget Jones. The sub-standard More Bridget Jones will appear in the author's soon-to-be-published book which promises continued adventures of the preposterous antihero. This snippet sees Jones return from a holiday and slip back into calorie-counting and lunching with her spineless friends June and Shazzer. Packed with whiney rants about slimming pills and good-for-nothing men, it is marginally less exciting than a plate of dry rice-cakes.

ALEX O'CONNELL

# Marcel's eternal madeleine

dmund White's Proust is a superb move suripped-down biography. In a succinct and constandy illuminating appraisal of the writer as homosexual. White succeeds in making public what Proust was outwardly at such pains to conceal Proust's outsidership - he was part Jewish, gay, a semiinvalid by way of chronic asthma, and an unctuously ingratiating social climber were all necessary facets of his person developed in the slow

evolution of his genius. White's elegant and incisive prose, evident here in his evocanon of Proust's characteristically neurotic obsessions, allows us that rare opportunity of perceiving how one distinguished novelist writes about another. This is White's Proust, and so the conception is of value to literature.

If Proust's forte was to apprehend the psychological build-ing blocks out of which the 20th century was to be constructed, then he achieved this through what he called "involuntary memory", or the unconscious. White is good on this crucial aspect of Froust, for it was the writer's facility to



By Edmund White Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £19,95 ISBN 0 297 84242 0

THE TRANSLATION OF MEMORIES By P. F. Prestwich Peter Owen, £22.50 ISBN 0 7206 1056 7

establish an interface between buried associations and their reappearance which was to prove the basis from which A la recherche du temps perdu Was constructed White is fascinating on

Proust's series of clandestine male lovers. If Marcel was adept at gender-hending for the sake of propriety in his novel — White points out that most of Marcel's female characters are "boys in drag" - then his private life was equally complex. Proust conducted an intense affair with the musician Reynaldo Hann in the years between 1894-1896, and was to make



Proust: always an outsider

Hahn the lifelong recipient of his gay confidences. White quotes Proust as writing to Hahn after the death of his secretary Alfred Agostinelli, to confide: "I truly loved Alfred. it's not enough to say I loved him. I adored him." And when Proust was totall in love with a young man named Albert Nahmias, he was to go so far as to write: "If I could only change my sex, face and age and take on the looks of a young and pretty woman so that I could kiss you with all of my heart." White's streamlined life of

Proust is a blueprint for good biography. It is serious, vivacious, racy, and its publication is a literary event.

P. F. Prestwich's valuable insight into the friendship shared by Proust, Hahn and his cousin Marie Nordlinger is an important contribution to Proust studies. It was Marie Nordlinger who assisted Proust in his translations of John Ruskin's works, and this book benefits from a wealth of previously unpublished letters exchanged by the youthfully aesthetic trio. Hahn was to prove seminal to Proust's understanding of music as it occurs in his novel, and Nordlinger to the affinities he discovered between his own thought and that of Ruskin. Memorable in this book is Proust's reminder to Hahn: "It isn't because others have died that grief diminishes but because one dies oneself."

Patriots turned to rogues



## **BOOKS**

## Swept away on a voyage to the Arctic

Andrea Barrett's glittering novel of polar exploration

charts the treacherous waters of the human soul

ou may not have been there: but — surely — you have seen photographs. The sea closed off by shifting floes of ice, the towering bergs pure, dazzling white. The sun fro-zen in the frame as in each exposure it moves round the sky but nev-er sets, glittering off the thin silver leads of open water that make phantom rivers through the pack. If you travelled to those high northern places — Baffin Island, Ellesmere Island, Bylot Island, King William Land — you might believe you

would know what to expect. Zeke Voorhees has never seen such images. When, in the summer of 1855, he first cauches sight of an iceberg gliding through the polar sea, he leaps from the binnacle to the rail of his ship, the Narwhal, his crippling seasickness cured as if by a drug. Andrea Barrett's remarkable novel, The Voyage of the Narwhal, opens a reader's eyes in much the same way: in choosing

attack

Knings

the past as her setting she sweeps away images and ideas that clutter the mind, and makes us see what she describes as if for the very first time. In doing so, too, she adds to our understanding that dilemmas that seem to be modern are, in truth, no such thing.

Zeke is commanding an expedioon which sets sail from Massachusetts to discover the foto of Sie laborate.

setts to discover the fate of Sir John Franklin, who vanished in the far north—with two ships. Erebus and Terror, and 134 men—ten years previously. Voorhees is young, reckless and possessed of "an almost far-cical beauty that made women stare... on the street and men hum with envy". In his company of disgruntled sailors and misfits is Erasmus Darwin Wells, a middle aged naturalist whose life, until now, has been a series of disappointments and frustrations: perhaps this Arctic journey will at last bring him the glory he craves. He ships out with a duty of care, as well: his

gaged to Voorhees, it is not quite right to call Erasmus the hero of this story; heroism is not his line. Yet it is his vision, as precise and inexact as a graven image on a cop-

per plate, which shapes the novel.

Barren's last book. Ship Fever,
was a collection of tales which won
the American National Book Award in 1996 (it will be published here in December). The oile novella finds a group of Irish immigrants arriving in Canada in 1847, in flight from the potato famine: one of their number is a young man called Ned Kynd, who reappears as the cook of the Narwhal. It is the reader's good luck that Barren's fascination with this period - and this character has spilt over into a second book. For the joy of reading The Voyage of the Norwhol is in finding a book whose research never overwhelms in itself: the clarity and depth of the story dazzle, but the work that must



forced or heavy-handed. From the pastry Ned makes from flour and lard, to the shapes of whales curving up through the ocean, to the way the freezing water seems to burn Erasmus when he tumbles off the ice — the details of this novel make it possible to live inside it. Even more subtle and powerful. however, is her treatment of charac-

lar voyagers which still draws readers to their tales; forcing each one to think, how would I react? If Franklin's men resorted to cannibalism. would I be able to resist in the face of starvarion? The awkward Erasmus, the dashing Zeke, thoughtful Swedish surgeon Dr Boerhaave. clever, frustrated Alexandra Copeland, companion to Lavinia back in Massachusens: all are brought alive with tenderness and insight. Erasmus's friendship with Boer-heave develops slowly, with a kind of grave couriesy: one night they be-gin to share details of their personal lives: Boerhaave tells Wells he's been alone for so long it's come to seem normal: "There was a mo-ment, then, as the murres continued pouring past them, in which anything might have been asked and answered. Erasmus might have asked what Dr Boerhaave really meant by 'alone' - with whom he shared that aloneness, and on what terms. Dr Boerhaave migh have asked Erasmus what he'd done since Sarah Louise's death for love and companionship: surely Erasmus hadn't dried up completely?

ity of the situation of those early po-

ter. Perhaps it is, in part, the extremity of the situation of those early po-

of each other."

Barren is able to delineate, too, the quite different panerns of thought in the heads of two lnuit called Annic and Tom by the white men - who are brought back to "civilisation" by Voorhees, If The Voyage of the Narwhal has a weak-ness, it is perhaps too neat in a way reminiscent of Dickens. Zeke is an out-and-out idiot throughout: I kept thinking, it can't be as simple as that. This makes him too clearly the villain of a work of otherwise fascinating ambiguity: that said. Zeke's ignorant wickedness keeps you turning the pages swiftly to the novel's end, a trick the Inimitable practically patented. Andrea Barrett, however, has an

age of the Narwhal is strange and rare, a journey to the unexplored lands that lie in distant latitudes and exist inside us all. Wrap up warm and come aboard.

original, memorable voice. The Vov-

THE VOYAGE OF THE NARWHAL By Andrea Barrett HarperCollins, £16.99 ISBN 0 00 225793 9



## Of life and love

MANOTHER instalment is due out in March of D. J. Enright's witty and ironical musings on life and letters — Play Resumed, a sequel to his de-lightful tnterploy. Typical en-tries: Beryl Bainbridge's remark to him that "the ladies of the night in Frankfurt take their holidays during the Book Fair because there are now so many women in publishing". But Play Resumed may soon be play abandoned. As he is on OUP's books as a poet, this book appears on its already condemned poetry

■ RICHARD HOLMES was given this year's Duff Cooper Prize for his biography of Coleridge on Monuoy at u glittering party — literally. since it wasin the Crystul Room of the Moy Foir Hotei. Holmes said thut once when he was giving a talk in New York, he described Coleridge's life as "a rollercoaster — like the Dow Jones (index", und distinctly

heord a hanker in the front row whisper to his companion: "Yeah - light or futures, heory on guilts." The novelist Mulcolm Bradbury. handing him the award, said

that it was olinost as grand to be invited to be a presenter as to win the prize — the line of notables that had done the ob started with no less than Winston Churchill. ■ MICHAEL NAUMANN, the German Minister for Cul-

ture, has been complaining that the British are obsessed with the war. He will smile to learn that in April there is yet another book coming on Rudolf Hess's dramatic flight to Scotland in May 1941: Hess: The British Conspiracy by John Harris and M. J. Trow (Deutsch). The authors introduce a fascinating new character into the story — an old Scotswoman called Mary Roberts. She knew some German friends of Hess, and the new theory is that this innocent old dear was used by an intelligence unit to write some letters to them that would tentpt Hess to come here with the hope of making peace with Britain. But Churchill would have none of it, and Hess spent the rest of his life in jail.

of Bloomsbury, has simply decided to take life easier. whatever the gossip-ridden world of publishing may say. Her decision to slow down was made a year ago and discussed with Nigel Newton, ber fellow founder. Just to set those rumours to rest e-mail us al:

■ LIZ CALDER, co-founder

books@the-times.co.uk



The Anti-Triad Squad raid the Volvo nightclub in Hong Kong which is believed to be used by the "Wo Shing Wo" Triad as a base for prostitution

¬ he Triads are universally connected in the mind with criminal activity but it was not always thus. The ancestors of such fearsome villains as Broken Tooth Kui and Pockmarked Huang were chiefs who gathered their clansmen together in secret associations for selfdefence under the authoritarian Zhou dynasty in the 3rd century AD.

tin Booth claims a direct political influence and global importance for the Triads. The case is not very well made until Booth deals with the life of Sun Yat Sen, the architect of modern China, who enlisted the support of the Triads in his nationalist campaign, thus restoring to them an air of patriotism. The payoff for the Triads was that when Sun re-turned from exile and sparked the nationalist revolution in 1911, regional Triad chiefs set up local administrations with themselves in key positions.

With their new-found power and freedom the Triad mem-



bers quickly degenerated from pragmatic patriots into criminals: as trade and industry boomed, so did the level of

bribery and protection money. Booth claims that by 1920: "The entire fabric of Chinese government was inextricably bound up with the intrigues and machinations of the criminal underworld." This was best demonstrated in the rise of Chiang Kai-shek, whose ca-

reer took off when he met the criminal overlord Big-cared Do in a brothel of which both were members. Their biggest protection

racket was breaking the general strike in Shanghai in 1927. taking millions of dollars from financiers and merchants to attack the Communists in what became known as the White Terror. Many Communist men were killed in the

gruesome way favoured by the for he began plotting to re-Triads: castration before being chopped with swords or machetes in the "death by a thousand cuts". Within a year Chiang Kai-shek was being recognised by the Western powers as heading the legitimate Gov-

ernment of China. After the Communist victory. Chiang became the darling of the free world. Chiang's gratitude was not unbounded move the British from Hong Kong with an uprising of the Triads. The result was violent Triad rioting in Hong Kong in 1956, blamed by Chiang Kaishek on Communist agents. It was hardly a political rising: the rioters attempted to take over a bank and extorred money from factories and from mo-

torists passing through areas they controlled. The Briosh

authorities arrested more than 10,000 Triad members over the following months. The story indicates the weakness of Booth's approach. which claims high importance for the Triads. They were, and

> to pursue their own ends. Much more interesting is Booth's analysis of a Hong Kong in which the Triads had

sponse to the injustices of a

cut-throat economy. Smart tends to ignore this dimension.

cal cosmology of the loth-cen-tury Jewish Kabbalists, which

imagines an exile in the heart

of the Godhead, without men-

Nevertheless, the book

should encourage Western readers to look beyond their

own traditions. The Black The-

ology of Africa or the Libera-

oon Theology of Lann Ameri-

ca both challenge establish-

ment Christianity in the West.

Thus he discusses the mysti-

are, merely criminals taking

advantage of political unrest

city, mugging was unheard of and burglary uncommon. I wunder what Jack Straw would think of that?

IN metro THIS SATURDAY High rise: novelist Andrew O'Hagan on his journey from a Glasgow

renement to a Soho club

free rein, for there was virtual-

ly no crime of the kind which

bedevils us today. Triad activi-

ty was directed towards vice.

gambling, the narcones trade

and extention. Crime against

private citizens was virtually

unknown: the murder rate

was the lowest of any major

THE學學多TIMES

#### **SAVE £5** when you buy these two essential writers' guides

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## Still Daddy's girl but her own woman, too

ast month a tall, confident woman, statuesque in a dark gown, stepped out on a stage andac-cepted the Whitbread Book of the Year Award on behalf of her father. A murmur rippled through the crowd. "How like her mother she looks," people said of Frieda Hughes. Her parents may both be

dead, but Hughes cannot escape their legacy. For many she is the tiny daughter outside whose door Sylvia Plath placed bread and milk before going downstairs to lay her head in the gas oven. For others she is the "Little Frieda" of Ted Hughes's poem. Now in her 30s, an established painter and writer of children's books, her debut collection of poems. Wooroloo (Bloodaxe, £6.95; ISBN 1 85224 496 8), will un-doubtedly be seized on and scoured for the imprint of ber

parents' imaginations.
There is much to be found. These poems are haunted. Her father's thought-fox skulks through the work, leaving its sharp stink behind; her mother's angry. unsparing tone sculpts a stark mental landscape. Often, resonances are so strikingly clear that it would be insulting to suggest they were not deliberate, that Frieda Hughes is not determinedly facing up to her parents' bitter fame in the most direct way she can. Even the poignant dedication - "For Daddy with love" - echoes Plath's poem. Daddy. But the publication of



Frieda Hughes: poetic echo

Wooroloo marks the watershed which any child of any famous parent must reach with emotional maturity. After years of resistance, Frieda Hughes publicly faces the fact that she is her parents' daughter. Tiger is born of tiger./ Looks like tiger. Eats the same meat,/ Does not complain about its stripes," she declares defiantly. The blunt lines stub, one against the other, neither lyrical nor particularly cadent,

but packed with feeling. At the heart of these poems is an idiosyncratic voice which belongs to Frieda alone. It sings like a scar. Wrenched out of a long muteness, it jars like the harsh laughter of the kookaburra in Wooroloo, the place in Australia where Frieda finally came to terms with her past, where she let her "wild oats pale as peroxide lie down among/ The bottle brushes" and acknowledged CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON ers as Buddha, Confucius. Des-

the "seeds awaiting./ Stiff little spiked children wanting It is an anguished, visceral

voice. Hughes lashes out against vulpine readers who appropriate her mother's death for their own ends, who "turned her over like meat on coals/ To find the secrets of her withered thighs/ And shrunken breasts". Unflinching she confronts uncomfortable facts from the flyblown stench of a dead cow, to the aridity of a hysterectomy: "My disease will be stripped out! Like the rotten lining of leather coat,/ And, neatly sewn, I

rieda Hughes realises that she is unpractised as a poet. In the final work of Wooroloo she writes: "Stuck in rock! My sentences are the roadside crosses./ Language got small here. Sylla-bles and consonants fell off the plate/ Like too many peas." Her point is proven. Metaphors pile up, one sapping the strength of the other.

At her best Hughes brings a painterly vision to her poems. Her canvases are studies of darkness and brilliance, filled with fiery imagery. She should let this voice blaze, stripping away imitation, withering uncertainties. It is from her free, wildfire imagination that readers will look forward to hearing in the future.

#### New manifesto: thinkers of the world, unite place and were, in part, a re-

T uman beings are KAREN meaning-seeking ARMSTRONG While creatures. dogs - as far as we know seem to feel no need to reflect on the canine condition or to engage with problems of injus-Routledge, £25 oce or morality, men and women feel compelled to do so. We are beings who fall easily into despair, and our religions, phi-losophies and works of art help us to give our existence

But these philosophies are fragile and, because they are so often associated with individual or cultural identity, people feel vulnerable and defensive if they are attacked. This has been especially problematic in our shrinking world. where the prevalence of Western science and technology has often gone hand in hand with Western philosophical hegernony. Other systems of thought are all too often either ignored or derided.

substance and significance.

Ninian Sman has attempted to redress this imbalance. World Philosophies delineates many of the major philosophical and religious trends in various parts of the world: South Asian, Japanese, Islamic and Jewish philosophies are summarised lucidly alongside the traditions of the West. To understand other people's habits of thought is, he believes, essential if we are to avoid cultural chauvinism.

As a work of reference, this will be invaluable. Smart's WORLD PHILOSOPHIES By Ninian Smart ISBN 0 415 18466 5



cartes and Derrida is impectable. It is, however, perhaps inevitably, dense and somewhat indigestible. His approach is atomistic, and the ideas, as he describes them, often lack the imaginative ambiance that

makes them compelling. This abstraction is probably inherent in the subject matter. As Smarr explains, philosophy has to put some distance between itself and the chaotic nature of human experience. in order to impose a system. Essentially, our philosophies are fictions. When cut down to bare bones they tend to seem even more arbitrary and unlikely than in the original. The most abstruse philosophies often sprang from concrete problems. Buddhist and Muslim

tioning the tragic expulsion of the Jews from Spain and from other cities and districts of Europe. To miss out the context from which a philosophy springs is to omit its essenoal drama and pathos, and fails to show why some of the most unlikely ideas take root.

Buddhist conceptions of the self offer an instructive crinoue of occidental systems and, perhaps, explain why we find it difficult to "feel" the philosophy of Kant. Smart suggestively directs

his readers to these comparisons and thus invites them to begin a dialogue with other tradioons: this is the chief merit of his book. As he concludes, at a time when tribal and cultural chauvinism appears to be on the increase, we need to develop a vision of history that will enable people of different cultures to enter imaginatively into each other's pasts in the hope of living together more successfully in the future.

3,000,000

health care members

34 health

screening centres

1,900

hospital beds

36 sports

injury clinics

and nursing

branches

67 homecare.

Ian Murray introduces a three-page report on how the private sector is coping with a changing health industry



# Pain and gain as the market shifts

pensive sea change, forced upon it by a complicated combination of pofitical, technological and demo-

Networks of state-of-the-art hospitals, where major opera-tions can be performed, are emerging, a far cry from the cosy clinics for minor procedures that were the mainstay of private health insurance a

few years ago.

The political drive for change derives from the Government's double standard on the National Health Service. On the one hand, Labour is ideologically opposed to pri-vate healthcare -- no one more so than Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. That opposition resulted in the decision to end tax relief on private healthcare insurance premiums.

At the same time, the Government's waiting-list initia-tive is persuading many pa-tients who need serious operations to opt for private care. In order to reduce the numbers' on their lists to meet their targets, hospitals are tending to concentrate on minor procedures such as hernia, varicose vein and cataract operations, for which patients often used to wait a year or more. Pa-tients needing major opera-

270 nursing and

retirement homes

12 occupational

health branches

5,000 partner

consultants

3,000 quality

assessed dentists

400 approved

fitness clubs

hip replacements are therefore far faster than inflation. The having to wait for so long in discomfort that they turn to formed and wants the best.

private care.

The result is that 20 per cent of heart operations and 30 per cent of hip replacements are now done privately. If the 500,000 operations carried out in the private sector had to be done within the NHS, the Government's waiting list initiative would probably collapse.
The need to carry out so

many major operations is driv-ing the technological revolu-tion in the sector. Cancer treatment, heart and or-

thopaedic surgery are all but impossi-A family ble in small units and require the latwill buy est equipment backed by a large an elderly This has led to "networking" — a system by which

relative an the big insurers exclusively use a net-work of hospitals operation that they have vetas a gift quality. This has

been spearheaded by PPP, which has caused widespread resentment, especially in the charity sector, by excluding many hospitals with long and honourable traditions of care.

Britain's ageing population another factor forcing change. Cancer, heart disease and worn joints are all more common in old age, which means that more and more members are making claims, increasing the expenses to be met from membership in-

The price of new drugs and

and insurers are having to pay

Membership is at best static, covering about 12 per cent of the population, but claims are increasing, especially for the more expensive procedures. A hip replacement costs about £6,000, a heart bypass between £11,000 and £12,000, and cancer treatment up to £30,000.

Paying for this is proving ever more expensive to the pri-

though they have raised subscriptions by up to three times the rate of inflation and held down fees to surgeons and hospitals by less than in-

The end of tax relief and the grow-ing cost of subscriptions have made themselves. The sort of person who

was once prepared to pay for the peace of mind that a health insurance policy can bring is now prepared to rely on the NHS for "basic maintenance" and to buy private treatment

A few people regularly set aside and invest the cost of health insurance, earning extra income from this personal "fund" which is then available if necessary. More, however, join one of the growing number of self-pay schemes run by insurers and hospital

that allow patients to repay the cost in instalments. These schemes are especially attractive to people who want operations not normally covered by insurance or provided by the NHS, such as cosmetic surgery and IVF, for which the market is constantly growing. market is constantly growing

amilies are also using self-pay schemes to buy operations, sometimes as birthday or Christmas presents, for elderly relatives who cannot afford a hip replacement or cataract operation and are doomed to months of pain or incapacity if

they have to wait for the NHS. There has been a 20 per cent increase in the self-pay sector during the past year, and i now amounts to more than 10 per cent of all private healthcare — reversing the trend of the Eighties, when the proportion of insured patients grew while the number paying for

themselves fell. The one area where membership is holding up is the corporate sector, with companies calculating that it is cheaper to subsidise insurance for key staff than to risk them being off sick for long periods awaiting NHS care.

Despite the Government's antipathy to private care, which may even lead to a dampdown on the NHS contracts of surgeons, working part-time in the sector, it re-mains an essential element in

keeping the nation healthy.
It provides some of the best treatment in the world for those who can afford it, and re-

## Pick and choose: it depends on the bank balance

The insurance companies are having to design cover for a variety of pockets, Pat Blair reports

their job, allowing them more whom. Employees in company schemes make up the ma-jority of those insured, al-though, at 30 per cent, individual subscribers account for a substantial part of the market. For consumers, the choice can be bewildering. There are now almost 30 provident organisations and commercial companies selling private medical ical insurance in a plethora of packages tailored to meet cor-porate or individual needs. The market, worth around £2 billion in premiums, is domi-

nated by BUPA and Private Pahave respective-ly around 40 per

cent and 30 per Norwich Health care sits in third about 9 per cent. An alternative to the insurance route is offered by Nuffield Hospitals, which has 38 hospitals and y. Its Nuffield Hospitals Duvear, offers

fixed price for all has a personal medical loans

There are also healthcare cash plans, with HSA Healthcare among the leaders of this part of the sector. Cash plans aim to be complementary to meeting the needs of those seeking to finance short-term medical problems, such as den-tal treatment, while private medical insurance (PMI) will continue to be used to pay for long-term medical conditions.

Insurance packages have almost infinite variety, which makes comparison between companies more difficult. Gen-Yet, partly because the market is static, consumers are unlikely to see large rises in premiums, according to Brian Reilly, general manager, BUPA personal sector sales. Instead, erally, the more that is paid in premiums, the greater the range of benefit. Day surgery and inpatient treatment costs are almost always covered but, depending on the pack-

age, outpatient consultations may not be included. There may be limitations on which hospitals may be used.

Some packages will cover only common conditions; others may be extended to include dental cover, or alternative therapies such as acupuncture. Certain treatments, such as IVF, may be excluded and there are likely to be limits placed on people with pre-existers may require prior authori-sation, with the consumer first checking that their insurance covers the particular treat-ment, or individual doctor or

Benefits may also be paid in cash, as a lump sum on diag-nosis of a specified critical ill-

insurers will be aiming to cut streamlining their structure.

One type of cover still in its infancy is long-term care insurance. To date, only about 30,000 people have adopted it. It remains to be seen whether it will be given a boost by the forthcoming report of the Roy-Care of the Elderly.

Long-term care insurance pays benefits for care in three broad areas: in a nursing or for help in one's own home. Payouts are triggered if the insured person has a cognitive disorder such as Alzheimer's tilsease and needs special care, or if he or she cannot perform certain "activities of daily liv-

such things as bathing, wash-ing, feeding or dressing oneself. Normally a person must be unable to perform at ADLs before re-ceiving benefit, although walk-ing aids and such like may be provided earlier. Levels of awareness have increased over the past 18 months OF SO," Says Hywel Jones, Nor-wich Union's

marketing manager of long-term care. So far, there have been few insurance moves into primary care services. However, for £10 a month or £120 annually. Norwich Union offers up to four GP consultations a year at its Medicentres, where mi-

at its Medicentres, where minor surgery can be undertaken, and a 24-hour helpline.
Day or night house calls, for
those who live within 20 miles
of a centre, cost £45 a visit.
PPP is piloting a scheme involving GPs, "to make independent general practice a realistic and affordable choice for
patients and doctors". The patients and doctors". The scheme has its critics. If implemented nationwide, however, it would take insurance cover to the heart of health services organisation - primary care in a way that has not been done



Some hospitals offer a fixed price for all treatment

ness, for example, or as an allowance if the patient opts for

NHS treatment. Some packag-

es offer private hospital treatment if the procedure cannot be done on the NHS within a

Many such developments stemmed from 1990 when in-

surers, who were paying out an unsustainable 90 per cent of their income in benefits.

were faced with the choice of a

large increase in rates, or de-

signing packages for a variety of pockets.

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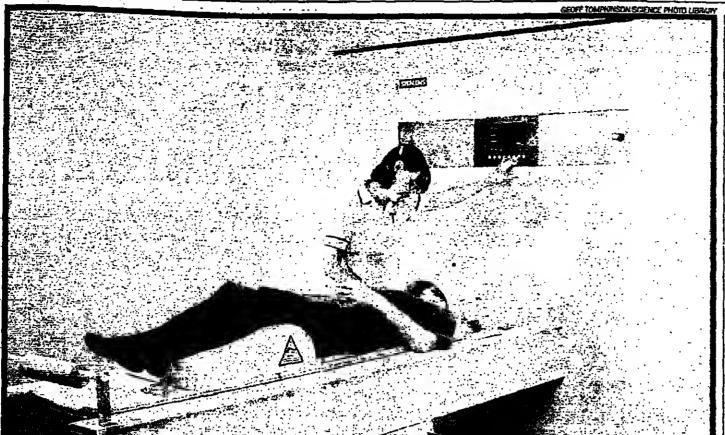
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A patient is prepared for a brain scan using a magnetic resonance imaging scanner. It is claimed that MRI could cut the cost of diagnosis

# Miracle of magnetism

dvanced medical diagnostic technology could save the NHS millions of pounds each year — if medical practitioners would use it more, says the managing director of a leading private healthcare firm. While the Government is pouring extra funds into increasing the numbers of hospital beds and trying to attract back trained staff. such as nurses who are no longer with the NHS, many of its older and more traditional senior people are ignoring what technology could do to help them to cut costs.

The executive cites the ability to use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners for diagnosing a range of conditions from cancers to muscular, skeletal, neurology, ENT (ear, nose and throat) and gynaecological complaints. In many instances, he says, consultants opt for older, often traditional techniques, such as surgery or Xrays and only turn to MRI when they fail. The success rate of MRI, however, is so much higher that it would seem logical to try it first. It is also non-invasive and has no known side-effects.

There is a catch, of course. The first is that it is a relatively new approach to diagnostic medicine. The second is that it costs more per session than the other methods.

Diagnostic technology may help hospital budgets, says John Stansell

the mother or her child.

hey are also capable of helping clinicians to detect

similar problems, but budgetary restraints with the NHS make this unlikely. Firms such as

his, which own the equipment and

hire specially trained medical staff

to use them within NHS hospitals,

could deliver such services at an

overall-cost saving.
Although MRI is making inroads into the cardiovascular field, X-ray

breast cancers and other

is more cost-effective than the tradi-tional methods, if you include the time spent, the longer a patient needs to occupy a bed and the need to involve other people such as surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses.

The problems of cost and tradition are hard to overcome in a health service now under huge pressure to cut costs. But, says the executive, "clinical practices have to change" if the NHS is to meet its long-term targets at an affordable cost to the nation. One way that could happen is for more firms to buy and operate the expensive new systems on behalf of the NHS. His firm does just that. He has

ten fixed MRI units in hospitals in his region and four mobile units that serve emergency or unexpected demands. His company also runs specialist cardiovascular laboratories in many of those hospitals and provides other services. There are four principal English suppliers for services such as MRI

scanners and cardiovascular laboratories to NHS Trusts and hospihis: Westiniosier Healthcare is probably the largest, followed by Lister Health in Yorkshire, Health South in Guildford and Lodestone machines still dominate, mainly for

cost reasons. Trevor Thomas, of Lister Healthcare in Yorkshire, says that they are currently used by many health professionals to look at arteries, veins and heart valves of in suburban London. There are people believed to be suffering from smaller providers who have done deals with local trusts or hospitals. cardiovascular problems.

MRI's versatility could do better.

The key to their success is the often at lower overall cost and with technology, coupled with specialist fewer side-effects in many diagnosmedical staff who can use it to the tic tasks, if NHS managers could full Major manufacturers of MRI be persuaded of its cost-effectivescanners, such as Philips and Sieness. For example, Mr Thomas mens, are adding new applications, says, doctors today tend to use fibre building on the success of the equipoptical arthroscopes to examine ment in providing non-invasive and non-toxic investigation of peopeople with knee-joint problems. They must penetrate the skin, insert an optical fibre and manipuple's bodies. For example, doctors can use the technology to assess late it remotely while studying the whether a baby in the womb is in image on a screen. They need anaesthe appropriate position for delivthetists and other surgical staff and ery, without posing a risk to either the patient is subject to considerable discomfort and will probably

need a bed for one or more nights.

By contrast, MRI can provide more information, faster, with fewer staff and less pain for the patient.

Also it can be done on a day-care basis which guts costs. basis which cuts costs.

Younger doctors opt for these methods, but are often overridden by senior clinical staff or managers who believe that traditional methods are cheaper. It is a struggle to get people to change their practices. Mr Thomas says. But if the NHS is to give better value for money, they must be persuaded.

# Firms invest in a healthy workforce

vention is better than conmaxim. Private health firms. though, are doing just that.

Last November, a team of medi-cal and social affairs experts — led by Sir Donald Acheson (a former Government Chief Medical Offic- er) — produced a report which stated that the growing wealth divide in advanced nations meant that bet ter-off people were increasingly healthier than the poor. The report offered a prescription for this problem based on redistribution of

Why are private health firms inerested in this issue? From giants in private medical insurance and services such as BUPA to small companies offering high-tech diag-nostic and analysis services, those in the private health field now recognise the scope for both new revenue and savings on current expend-iture through adopting techniques that could help to prevent key per-sonnel in industry from becoming ill in the first place.

Chris Jessop, managing director of Barbican Health Care, says that his firm's business is founded on providing assessment services to firms which earn their keep by early detection of signs that key em-ployees are prone to problems that may affect future performance. He cites the fact that although many City high-flyers seem to cope well with the mental stress of their jobs. physiological problems, such as skin rashes, digestive ailments and, in women, hormone imbalances and irregular menstrual cy-

cles, suggest otherwise, Barbican Health Care offers a range of clinical, pathological, physiological and psychological assessments which add up to an overall picture of a client. "Our approach is holistic," Mr Jessop says. The bottom line is that when we ask the questioo 'Has it changed your lifestyle? we expect to get the answer 'yes'." In addition to private GPs, den-

tists and other specialists, Jessop's firm provides advanced laboratory facilities that are geared to produc-ing an accurate picture of the health of key individuals working for various companies. These are backed by specialist software analysis programs that can give health professionals deeper insights into the people being studied.

In the more conventional pri-vate medical insurance sector, companies such as BUPA are increasingly preoccupied with health management programmes in the

verybody knows that prevention is better than cure. Treating early signs of illness helps to ensure that staff are fit for the job



Fit for work: firms now spend more on ensuring staff feel good

workplace. Val Gooding, chief executive officer of BUPA. lists the aims as "preventing illness, improving the health of employees, reducing sickness absence and

increasing productivity".

To achieve these goals it is attempting to identify risk factors. It also provides telephone helplines and is sharing expensive diagnostic and screening hardware and software with other private Institutions and NHS hospitals. BUPA has produced a comprehensive publication titled Help your-self to better health - Your personal health guide. It covers key life-style issues which could have a bearing on an individual's ability to get the most out of life - now and in the future.

In addition, specialist compa-nies offering diagnostic and screening services - manning costly diagnostic systems such as MRI scanners for NHS Trusts -- have discovered there is a burgeoning demand for these machines to help to detect common destructive ail ments such as blood pressure and high cholesterol levels.

Lister Healthcare, based in Selby. Yorkshire, now gets more frequent requests to make greater use of its MRI scanners (both fixed and mobile) and its X-ray-based cardiovascular diagnostic systems to screeo individuals in an effort to assess how well-equipped they are for their jobs. Trevor Thomas, the firm's managing director, says a leading carmaker is using the MRI scanners to gauge the state of their employees' backs. There are obvious benefits for firms which employ workers to carry out heavy physical tasks while endeavouring to avoid any financial liabilities that might arise through workplace injuries.

JOHN STANSELL

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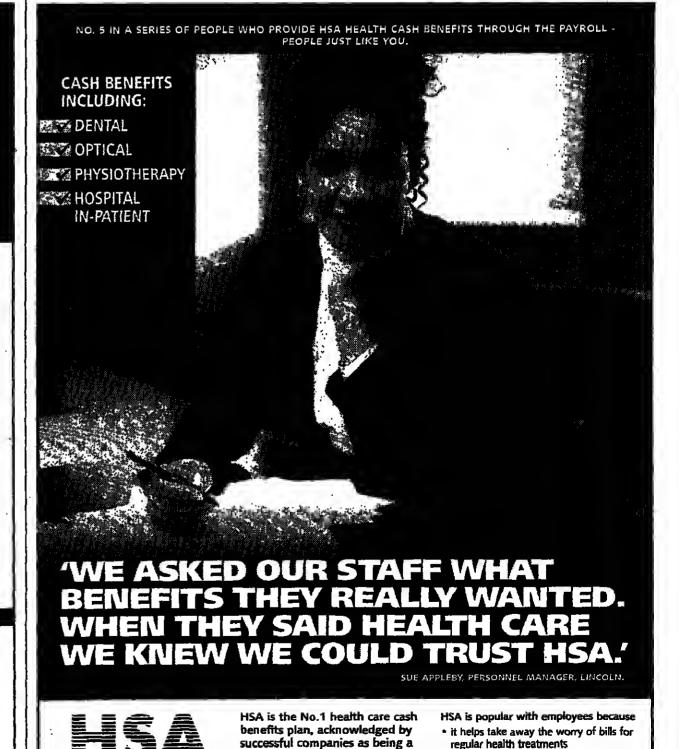
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## Now is the time to plan for the twilight years

Funding of care of the elderly must be addressed by State and individual, writes Pat Blair

hen the final report of the Royal Com-mission oo Long-Care on the Elderly is lic debate about what sort of provisioo and how it will be funded will just be beginning.

For some time there have been rumblings about the cost of looking after an increasingly long-lived population and whether the State could afford the necessary range and quali-ty of care. Until about two years ago, there was a boom

·norsing homes. Largely this merely compensated for a reduction - by almost half - in publicly funded loog-stay places. This boom has now halted. People are

now living longand longer. And surveys show that. given the choice, most people prefer to be assisted in their own homes for as long as possible. need to

are likely to oeed more attention than was previously the

This has contributed some uncertainty over what to provide. BUPA, one of the largest operators of long-stay homes, pointed out in its submission to the Royal Commission: "There is not enough statistical data to predict the need for care in the first half of the oext century accurately. Population projections and the demographic shift suggest long-term nursing are." The data, says BUPA.

pointed to a need for social care in the retired population but that the provision of long-term nursing care was "of greater relevance over the age

With people staying in their own homes for much longer. their stay in full-time care is likely to be shorter than in the past. This adds to the difficulty of predicting future requirements and is perhaps one reason why, over the past two years, there have been amalgamations and takeovers among

term care, BUPA, which with 5,000 places in 270 homes is

now the largest single opera-

tor, acquired six companies or

divisions of companies - in-

cluding Care First, Goldsbor-

ough and Takare Homes Ltd.

ent health care analysts Laing

& Buisson show that at April

last year, there were 561,600

long-stay places in Britain, a

drop of 9,000 places over the

which overall capacity growth

Figures from the independ-

has been below what would be expected from demograph-However, the greater ques-

tioo is how all long-term care will be funded. As Norwich Union says in its submission to the Royal Commission, the annual cost of living in residential care where there is little or no oursing care is, on average, £12,500, "compared with the £17,500 average cost of nursing care". Leaks from the Royal Com-

mission suggest that one would be to sepatioo and oursing

> would be paid by the State, while individuais would contribute towards accommodation costs. This is unlikely to find fayour in Government: the cost to mated at £1 billion in the first year, rising to £7 billioo by the middle of the century.

costs. The latter

Moreover, with assets over say, £40,000 — up from the present £16,000 — would still

manager of BUPA personal some form of insurance provision is the way forward. He says that, had they been re-elected in 1997, the Conservatives were ready to announce a partnership scheme under which the Government would

have to pay towards their up-keep. Brian Reilly, the general

previous year, in a market worth £8.4 billioo annually. match an individual's payment into long-term care prolooking after them in their twi-

light years — and that now is

the time to plan for the future.

popular than ever and it has nothing to do with whining drills or jaw-clenching stabs of pain. The reason is that they

are increasingly striking pa-tients off their NHS lists. According to the British
Dental Association (BDA) 25
million people — 45 per cent of
the population — are not registered as NHS patients with a dentist. In many areas, such as in the Home Counties and

other regions of apparent high incomes, few dentists will take

new NHS patients.
For many going private is often the only option, but that may seem unreasonable to taxpayers who argue that because they pay for the health service they should be treated

You might believe that dentists are so well paid that their reluctance to treat people on the NHS is no more than simple greed. The average dentist earns just under £47,000 gross, according to the BDA. after the expenses of their prac-

Dentists generally argue that the fee paid to them by the State for treating patients on the NHS (£1.16 with the patient contributing £4.64) is barely enough to cover routine check-ups, let alone cleaning or any extensive treatment.

They have been frustrated over a long period by government failure to make decisions about reorganising the profession to account for current demand or modern ways of meet-

ing it.
The result is that NHS patients are required to pay up to 80 per cent of the costs of any treatment, up to a total of £340 a time, unless exempt by age. pregnancy or in receipt of benefits. Any patients who need more than one treatment in a year can typically pay about E400. If they join a dental insurance scheme and pay between EIO and EIS a month, depending on the state of their teeth at the start, that covers them for all check-ups and treatment

So why doesn't everyone go private? One argument is that if you are in late middle age or are elderly, the premiums could be much higher. The key point is that the profession and its NHS fee structure are still funded in the belief that the dentist's role is to "drill and fill".

Originally it was assumed day there are many more den-tal diseases and problems than cavities, and many more

## Dentists feel they are the Cinderellas of the medical profession, says John Stansell Our teeth need more than a drill and fill



Open wide: but today patients are more often required to open their wallets to pay for costly dental treatment

treatments than fillings. All cost more money than the NHS is prepared to pay. Dentists must therefore charge patients a part of the total cost.

Many NHS-approved treat-ments are traditional, often not as good as modern techniques, and involve dentists in significant bureaucratic procedures to account for the payments. Most dentists want to do the best job they can, and so it hurts their professional pride as well as their pockets to offer a treatment that is, if not second-rate, not the best.

For example, a traditional amalgam filling is a third of the cost of a tooth-coloured one mothers not to have fillings with this material. Nigel Carter, the chief execu-

tive of the British Dental Health Foundation, says that although nothing has been proved there are suggestions that the mercury in amalgam could contribute to a range of diseases such as multiple sclerosis and ME. "No food and drug administration in the world would approve amaigam for use if was introduced

that it is up to the Government

free and treatments chargeable. Others, including the BDA, favour a more effective mixture of private and public funding involving both insur-ance schemes and government funding. Whatever stance you take,

you cannot get away from the fact that dentistry is in crisis. The Conservatives, says the BDA, cut dental school places by 10 per cent in 1987 so that now, and for the foreseeable future, there are many more patients than the number of qualified dentists can treat, whether in public or private practice. A report earlier this week on You and Yours, the BBC radio

dentists could apply. For example, simple filling of small fissures in children's teeth could prevent more serious cavities later on, but it can't be funded. There are new bonding techniques that mean dentists can tooth before filling or crowning, but they are too costly.

cated £19 million of new money in September 1997 for establishing NHS practices in areas where there are none, or to expand existing ones, but only £7 million has been spent so far.

Although the BDA asked for

## How can you get private medical treatment if you don't have insurance?



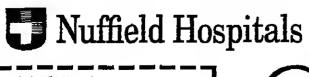
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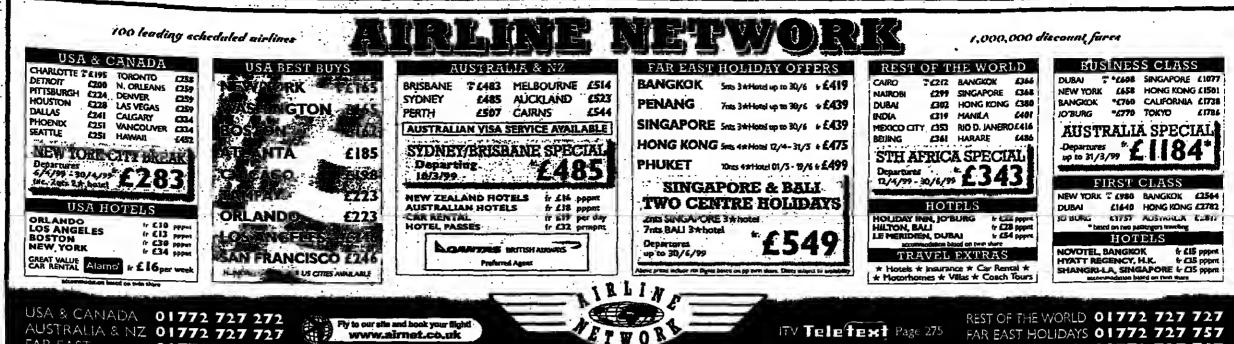
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Join in the St Patrick's Day revels on a short trip to Dublin

tre hotel cost from £206. Details: 0161-926 9999.

YORKSHIRE rooms with a view — over the bay at Scarborough or the market town of Malton - are available at special prices from English Rose Hotels next month. Dinner, B&B costs £29.50 a night for a minimum two-night stay. Details: 01723 374374.

■ ROOKERY HALL Cheshire has welcomed celebrities from Baroness Thatcher to Posh Spice and David Beckham, but you can bet that very few of them indulged in the clay pigeon shooting and archery available on weekend breaks on March 17-18 and 23-24. Two nights' dinner, B&B and the activities cost £190. Details: 01270 610016.

■ CIRCUS skills, canoeing and caving will be taught to children and teenagers while their parents can learn archery, abseiling and survival skills on family activity holidays with Manor Adventure this Easter. A busy week at the Shropshire centre from April 3 costs £906 for two adults and two under-10s, including accommodation, meals, super-vision and a day out at Alton Towers, just for a rest. Details: 01584 861333.

A HARBOUR cottage at Schull, Co Cork, and a timber lodge above Kenmare, Co Kerry, sleeping five to six people, are among properties availa-ble for Easter from Country Cottages in Ireland. Prices start from £4|4 for a week from March 27 and £588 for a formight and include Irish Sea



ing a half-day trip to Moner's home as an extra to two-night breaks in Paris, which cost from £154 with BA flights. Sea France also has "Monet-Sav-



THE MONET exhibition continues to pull in the crowds at the Royal Academy, London, and tour operators have come up with a series of offers for those inspired to visit the gardens that feature in so many of

drive of Giverny are available from the Individual Travellers Company, with prices starting at £235 for three nights and £516 for a week for cottages sleeping four. The offer includes a short Channel crossing and is available until May 27. Details: 08700 771771.

■ MAGIC of France is offerers", including ferry crossing and two nights' B&B at a cha-teau with sporting facilities and within reach of Giverny, from £107. Details: Magic of France, 0181-741 0208; Sea France, 0990 711711.

■ CABINS have become available for next week's cruise through the western Mediterranean to Madeira, the Canaries and Morocco with Festival Cruises. The late-availability price is £545, including a flight from Gatwick to Italy on March 4 and ten nights' full board on the Azur. Details: 0171-436 0827.

■ COPENHAGEN, with its canals and Tivoli Gardens, can be reached for £98 return with British Midland and is one of several European offers available until March 8. Your stay must include a Saturday night. Details: 0345 554554.

■ CHAMPAGNE for Mother's Day, both the place and the drink, is on offer from Crystal Premier France. Two nights' B&B, including March 14 at a hotel in Rheims, costs

£46, with ferry travel for car Heathrow. The offer from Leiand passengers, available from £99. Details: 0181-241 5030. sure Direction is available until the end of March. Details:

0181-324 3030.

■ HOTELS in Italy remain at low-season prices with Room Service until March 15. A dou-

ble room with breakfast at a

three-star Rome hotel costs

■ A TUSCAN villa with a

choice of apartments sleeping

three, four and five is on offer

from EuroVillages. Prices

start at £44S for an apartment

in late March and include

Channel crossing for car and

passengers. Fly-drive holidays

are also on offer. Details:

A PILGRIMAGE to Lour-

des during Holy Week could form part of a holiday in south-

west France with The Gascony

Secret. A small cottage for a

week from March 28 costs

E185, including Portsmouth-

Caen crossing for car and pas-

sengers. Details: 01284 827253.

01606 787776.

£45. Details: 0171-636 6888.

MALTA at a £120 saving is available with Belleair. Fly from Gatwick on March 14 and a fortnight's B&B at a Valletta hotel costs £341. Self-catering holidays are also on offer from the same date, starting at £218 for two weeks. Details: 0181-785 3266.

BELEK is one of the newer destinations on offer in Turkey and boasts sandy beaches with a mountain backdrop. From March 18, Metak will begin a programme to the resort, with a week's half board at an hotel with an 18-hole golf course costing from £439 with flights from a choice of London airports. Details: 0171-935 6961.

■ WALTZ off to Vienna and a three-night break with breakfast in a four-star hotel in the city centre will cost £277, including return flights from

bean, making it difficult to find bargains — although plenty of holidays are still available, Tony Dawe writes.
The biggest discounts are at

HIGH SEASON and hot

weather continue in the Carib-

the top end of the market and the cheapest deal is for a week's two-star accommoda-tion in Jamaica, which costs £399 from Lunn Poly with a flight from Gatwick on March 8. Details from the company's

Holiday Shops.

The best all-inclusive offer appears to be a week at the Rex Grenadian, with a flight from Gatwick on March 17. that costs £799 from Tropical Places. Grenada has remained fairly unspoilt since the Ameri-cans and Cubans came to blows over it in the 1980s.

Details: 01342 825123. Definitely unspoilt is Tor-tola, where the British Virgin Islands Club is offering a fort-night at a discounted £1,595 for departures from Saturday until March 24. The price includes BA flights to Antigua, connections to Tortola and accommodation in hillside studios with sea views. Details: 0181-232 9781

■ INSTANT sunshine and a new lifestyle are on offer from Co-op Travelcare, which still has places on a Sunworld holi-day to Goa that begins with a flight from Gatwick on Saturday. A fortnight's B&B costs £409. Details: 0541 500388. If you fancy the former hippy paradise but need a little more time to plan, First Choice offers a week's B&B from March 4 for £439, including return flights from Manches-ter. Details: 0870-750 0001.

■ CANADA could be one of the safer places to ski in the coming weeks and Crystal is offering a week at Lake Louise from March 17 for £589. The price includes return flights from Gatwick and hotel accommodation with most meals. Details: 0181-399 5144.

■ DIVING, preferably in warm waters, is an alternative sport for this time of year, and Regal is offering a special deal to mark the addition of a new hotel in Hurghada, Egypt, to its Red Sea programme. A week's half-board at the El

Gandoul from March 12 costs El99, including return flights from Gatwick. Diving courses start from £160 and a free trydive is also available. Details: 01353 778096.

BLUE whales will be doing the diving, if you're lucky, on an expedition to the Sea of Cortez, off Mexico, with Wildlife Worldwide. The ten-day trip in search of the huge mammals will also call at uninhabited islands famed for bird life. The adventure begins with a flight from London on April 11 and costs £1.695 with accommodation aboard ship and in hotels, most meals and expert guides. Details: 0181-667 9158.

■ THE GAMBIA has been a little short of upmarket proper-



Find a deserted beach in Goa

ties but the opening of Coconut Residence, set in an exotic garden with two swimming pools and boasting top-class chefs, has changed that. The Gambia Experience is offering a week's balf-board at the hotel from £698, including return flights from Gatwick. Details: 01703 730888.

 All prices are per person and based on two travelling together and sharing a room unless otherwise stated.



last-minute holidays

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

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cinemas in Britain and Ireland. Among the many great films either showing now or soon to be released are You've Got M@il, the new Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan love story; Little Voice which earned for Michael Caine Best Actor at the Golden Globe awards; and The Thin Red Line, there is a second in The Sunday Times on February 28. Terrence Malick's epic about the Second World War starring John Travolta and Sean-Penn. Among other films 📑 March 25, 1999.

ith The Times's FREE ticket offer you can see one showing during the offer period are two that have been of the latest exciting releases at any of UCI's 35 nominated for Oscars, the Italian Life is Beautiful and Central Station, directed by Srazilian Walter Salles.

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The offer is valid from today until Thursday,

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CHANGING TIMES

## Employers' pension duty to be honoured

Jefferies and Others v Mayes and Others v Mayes and Others and Others v Mayes and Others National Grid Company pic v National Power plc v Feldon and Others

. 4

+ 41

**Court of Appeal** 

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Brooke [Judgment February 10]

In the event of an actuarial surplus arising in the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, an approved occupational scheme, the employers' ob-ligations to make specified contri-butions had to be honoured.

Express provisions in the scheme requiring the employers to "make arrangements" to deal with such a surplus did not entitle the employers unilaterally to forgive themselves their existing accrued liabilities without there being an amendment to the scheme and without the agreement of the trus-

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing appeals by Mr David Laws, Mr Reginald Mayes and Mr Howard Machin, members of the pension scheme, from the decision of Mr Hustice Robert Walles (The Target) Justice Robert Walker (The Times June 30, 1997; [1997] PLR 167]

whereby he had

(i) allowed appeals by the National Grid Company plc and Mr David Jefferies and the other National Grid Company plc and Mr David Jefferies and the other National Grid Company (i) and in the other National Grid Company (ii) and in the other National Grid Company (ii) and iii) tional Grid group trustees, from de-terminations made by the Per-sions Ombudsman on February 7, 1997, regarding National Grid's use in 1993 of an actuarial surplus of some £62 million in part for its own benefit and

(ii) determined on an originating summons issued by National Power plc and to which Mr Machin and Mr Hugh Feldon and the other National Power group trustees were respondents, a similar issue relating to National Power's treat-ment of actuarial surpluses of some £303 million in 1993 and £74 million in 1996, and

Regina v Stratford Justices,

Before Lord Justice Buxton and

It was not a consequence of article

6 of European Convention on Hu-

Freedoms (1953, Cmd 8969) that

prosecution witness statements in

summary proceedings had to be

disclosed to the defence before the

The Queen's Bench Divisional

Court so observed in refusing an

application by Colin Imbert for ju-dicial review by way of certiorari of the refusal by Stratford Justices of

November 13, 1997 to refuse to stay proceedings brought against him for threatening abusive or insult-

ing behaviour and assault on a po-lice officer.

applicant had been stopped by po-lice officers in east London and

had reacted to their questions with

behaviour which grounded the

the applicant requested disclosure

but the Crown Prosecution Service

refused to disclose the police offic-

When it came into force the Hu-

man Rights Act 1988 would make

the provisions of the European

Convention effective in the metro-

politan law of England and Wales.

At the pre-trial review of his case

charges laid against him.

ers' witness statements.

According to the prosecution the

Ex parte Imbert

Judgment February 8]

National Power could take account of any pre-funding that had taken place, that is, as employer it was not bound to make deficiency pay-

ments under clause 13(1)(e) except so far as they were actually needed. Mr Nigel Inglis-Jones, QC and Mr Geoffrey Topham for Mr Laws and Mr Mayes: Mr Peter Crampin, QC and Mr Michael Furness for National Grid Company nir Mr Pohor Ham OC and Mr pic, Mr Robert Ham, QC and Mr Paul Newman for National Grid trustees: Mr Alan Steinfeld, QC and Mr John Stephens for Mr Machin; Mr Nicholas Warren, QC and Mr Christopher Nugee, QC, for National Power plc; the Pensions Ombudsman and the National Power plc; the Pensions Ombudsman and the National Power plc; the Pensions Ombudsman and the National Power processes and Power plc; the Pensions Ombudsman and the National Power processes and Power plc; the Pensions Ombudsman and the National Power processes and Power plc; the Pensions of Power plc; the Power plc; the Pensions of Power plc; the Power plc; th

pear and were not represented. LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appeals raised points of interest and difficulty in relation to the treatment of an actuarial surplus in the Electricity Supply Pen-

al Power group trustees did not ap-

At the risk of over-simplifica-tion, the central question was al surplus the employers, National Grid and National Power, were empowered to forgive themselves lia-bilities that had already accrued due from them to the trustees, in the absence of any express power in the scheme, and in the presence of an express prohibition against any amendment of the scheme which might permit them to take out of if any of its moneys.

The decision in the case had to turn on the provisions of the scheme; in many ways an unusual one. It had originated in two earli-er schemes established by the Elec-tricity Council in 1949 for employees in the electricity supply indus-try, brought into a single scheme when the industry was privatised

Article 6 of the Convention pro-

"3 Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following

minimum rights: (a) to be in-formed promptly, in a language

which he understands and in de-

tail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him..."

cant; Mr David Perry for the prose-

Mr Nicholas Paul for the appli-

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said

that in cases tried summarily,

there was no obligation to serve a

defence statement. In R v Kingston

upon Hull Justices. Ex parte Mc-Cann [[1991].155-IP 569] the Divi-

sional Court rejected an argument

that there was any requirement of advance disclosure of witness state-

ments and specifically decided that

the absence of advance disclosure

a trial unfair. The decision in Mo-

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON said

that the prosecution in fact offered

to hand over the witness state-ments but counsel had said that the issues before their Lordships

raised questions of some impor-

case would be, in technical terms,

obiter. That was true twice over in

respect of arguments that depend-

The application said: "Article 6

What the court said in such a

Cann remained in force.

whether in the event of an actuari-

The general effect of clause

Clause 14 was concerned with

requires the full disclosure to the

The rights recognised by the

Convention had been Interpreted

by the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg subject to "margin of appreciation", see for example Hundyside v UK ([1976] | EHRR). The application of that doctrine would appear to be solely a matter for the Strasbourg Court.

By appealing to the doctrine that

Court recognised that the detailed content of at least some Conven-tion obligations was more appro-

priately determined in the light of national considerations. That ap-

proach was necessarily translated into a view of the meaning and reach of the detailed provisions of

The English judge could not

the docurine of the margin of appre-

ciation as implemented by the

Strasbourg Court. He must, howev-

er, recognise the impact of that doc-trine upon the Strasbourg Court's

analysis of the meaning and impli-

cations of the broad terms of the

Although the margin of appreci-

ation doctrine did not appear to be

expressly cited by the Strasbourg Court in respect of criminal pro-

lar expressions of policy had formed a part of the Strasbourg

Court's exposition of its role in re-spect of the rules of criminal proce-

ceedings under article 6 very s

convention provisions.

the Convention that was ilexible.

defence of all relevant evidence."

players to take more decisions uni-laterally than was usual in modern pension schemes.

scheme. The crucial provision, clause 1459, provided that if the ac-many certified a surplus in respect By clause 13(1) of the scheme "the employers shall contribute to the fund ... (a) [monthly, a sum equal to twice the members' basic contributions] ... (e) in respect of any member who retires ... or ceases to be a member on leaving service consequent on a reorganisation or redundancy before age 50 such an amount as determined by the principal employer on the advice of the actuary (deficiency payments); (f) |supplementary payments un-der| rules 44(3) or 45(2)(b); and (g)

By a proviso to clause 13(1) the contributions, whether due and payable or prospectively payable. by an employer under sub-nara graphs lal to (f) could be reduced or sended, whether with remastic tive effect or otherwise, to the extent of any overpayment under rule 44(3) or any surplus certified hy the actuary under rule 45(2) pro-vided that agreement was reached to that effect between employer/

additional voluntary contribu-

scheme co-ordinator/truste There was no provision in the scheme whereby the employer was entitled unilaterally to require for giveness of debts that had already accrued due from it, let alone the re-payment of moneys within the

13(l|(a) to 1f), with the proviso, was to provide that the employers' obligations to make contributions to the fund, with which the clause was concerned, should be hon-oured. They should not be whittled away by unilateral decisions on their part. If the need arose for any of the employers' unpaid liabilities under clause [3(I) to be reduced or suspended, as was perceived might be necessary, then express provision had to be made to that effect, as was clear from the terms of the

of benefits accrued to the date of any valuation, as between the group assets and the group liabilities the principal employer "shall make arrangements, certified by the actuary as reasonable, to deal with such surplus".

That provision required the employer to "make arrangements ... to deal with such surplus". Thus the question was: how free a hand did the employer have when mak-

In particular, was it at liberty to ignore another provision of the scheme which appeared to deny it the power to make an arrangement it wished to make? In that respect the appellants re-

that "any amendments to the scheme shall be void to the extent to which it would otherwise have the effect of ... making any of the moneys of the scheme payable to

any of the employers.".

In resolving the remaining issues it was helpful to bear in mind some basic principles which were now fairly well established.

First, the court's approach to the

construction of documents relating to a pension scheme should be prac-tical and purposive, rather than de-tached and literal. Its provisions should wherever possible be con-strued to give reasonable and pracocal effect to the scheme, Next, although an employer was

not to be treated as a fiduciary when he exercised powers vested in him by the provisions of a pen-sion scheme, it needed to be remembered that he owed an implied obligation of good faith to his

It was also well settled that although members of a pension scheme had no rights in the surplus revealed by an actuarial valuation [see In re Courage Group's on Schemes (1987) 1 WLR 495)), they had a reasonable expec-tation that any dealings with that

The principle of looking at the

fairness in their entirety of the par-

ticular criminal proceedings that were under criticism permeated

the whole of the Strasbourg juris-

The applicant said that his

strongest case was Foucher v France (1997) 25 EHRR 234). The French Code of Criminal Proce-

dure provided for the report of the official witnesses to be the actual ev-

idence in the case, in the absence of

of that report before the proceed-

: The Strasbourg Court based its conclusion that Foucher's convic-tion had been obtained in breach of

article 6 on the principle that a party to a criminal charge had to be af-

forded a reasonable opportunity to

present his case in conditions that

did not place him at a disadvan-

case were not, however, at all ex-

The parallels with the present

First, what was witheld in

Foucher was not a statement of

what the prosecution expected or

hoped the evidence to be, as in the

case of prosecution witness state-

ments in England, but the actual

Foucher was denied access was not

Second, the dossier to which

evidence itself.

tage vis-à-vis his opponent.

Foucher had been denied sight

proof to the contrary.

ings in the police court.

prudence

surplus would pay a fair regard to their interests, since the copress purpose of the scheme was to provide benefits for their retirement.

The present scheme contained rather more unilateral powers vested in the employers, as opposed to powers exercised by the employers and the trustees in concert, than was now customary

In those circumstances it was particularly important that care was taken when interpreting the employers' unde powers to ensure that they did not go further than was permitted to them by the word-ing of the scheme, and the basic

and approaching the maner in accordance with the general principles, the conclusion was that the employers were not endued to lorgive themselves unilaterally their existing accrued liabilities in the absence of any amendment to the scheme and without the agreement of the group trustees to who those liabilities had accrued due. There was nothing outside clause 145 to suggest that they

any such power.
Without having us decide the point, the court could see nothing m clause 41(2)(b) which would have prevented the employers from pro-posing and implementing an amendment to the scheme so as to have enabled them to take the course they sought to take, if they had thought it politic to do so, with or without the agreement of the

group trustees. The procedure prescribed by clause 41(4) would have enabled any doubts about the effect of the proposed amendment on the scheme's approved status to be re-solved through the machinery there set out. The employers had not however, taken that course.

Solicitors: Stephens Innocent: Lovell White Durrant: Linklaters

#### Convention does not demand disclosure dure of the member states, see Sai-di v France [[1993] 17 EHRR 25]). a set of documents held by the prosecution, but the court file.

sised by the Strasbourg Court was that of equality of arms, That clearly was not achieved in the French proceedings in Foucher because the Cour de Cassation took the view that Foucher had no right to see the evidence that the court had already filed with the court. It was very difficult to see what in the present case was the el-

Third, the requirement empha-

ement of Inequality. Fourth, the Strasbourg Court in Foucher had been engaged in deprocess, in which evidence not disclosed to the defendant had been relied upon in the actual trial, had

That fell very far short of the consarily made the whole of any subsequent proceedings, however much they revealed the nature of the prosecution case and permitted it to be contested, unfair in Convention

The justices were quite right to Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co. Southwark: Crown Prosecution

Service, Stratford.

hold that article 6 did not require them to stay the prosecution. The outcome would have been no different had the case been decided under the provisions of the 1988 Act.

But where the defence at trial, in principles referred to.

After full and careful reflection.

had such a power and clause 14(5) did not purport to accord to them Judee Lakin and a jury.

Following a robbery of 19,500 in cash taken from a McDonald's resthen on benefit, went on holiday to photographed in celebratory pose outside a local McDonald's. On return he was interviewed by police but, on legal advice, declined to an-

After the interview his solicito

The judge acceded to the

Ms Tanoo Mylvaganam for the defendant: Mr Antony Longworth for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, re-ferred to section 34 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 which applied if certain specified

## Volunteering to waive legal privilege

Regina v Bowden

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill. Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy and Mr Justice Jackson Dudement February 101

Where at a police interview a suspect stated that he refused to answer questions on legal advice and at his subsequent trial evidence was given of that lactual statement he did not waive legal professional privilege.

seeking to avoid the drawing of adverse inferences, elicited evidence of a statement made before trial by grounds on which his advice not to answer pre-trial questioning had been given, privilege was waived and the defendant could be crossexamined on the nature of the advice and the factual premises on which it had been based.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held, dismissing Bri-an Bowden's appeal against convic-tion of robbery following his trial at Manchester Crown Court before

made a statement of the grounds on which that advice had been give en. The defendant was charged guilty. At trial the Crown led evi-dence of his refusal to answer pretrial questions but not of the solicitor's statement.

In his delence, the delendant tesofied that his mother had provided the holiday money and gave an ex-planation for the photograph. However, his counsel, concerned that no adverse inference should be drawn from his silence at interview, elicited evidence from the interviewing police officer of the solic-

Crown's submission that the de-fendant had thereby waived privilege and he was accordingly cross-examined as to what he had told his solicitor about payment for the holiday and why the photograph had been taken outside McDon-

noes as appeared proper from a person's failure when questioned before charge or on being charged or officially informed that he might he prosecuted, to mention a fact retied on in his defence to criminal

The object of that section and of sections 35 to 37 was to weaken the protection which criminal defendants had previously enjoyed against the drawing of interences adverse to them from such failures and refusals in the circumstances

medited. Proper effect had to be given to those provisions; but since they restricted rights recognised at com-mon law as appropriate to protect defendants against the risk of injus-tice they should not be construed more widely that the statutory lan-

guage required.

There was nothing in those sections in suggest that Parliament inended in any way to modify the existing law on legal professional

privilege.
The substance of that privilege had been defined by section 10 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which had been presumed to give effect to the con law position: see R v Central Crimi nal Court. Ex parte Francis and Francis (1989) AC 346), and the paramount importance of the privilege was not in doubt: see R v Der-by Magistrates' Court. Ex parte B d1996LAC 487). It was well established that the

privilege was that of the client. It was waivable, but only by or on his behalf and he could not claim privilege for what he had voluntarily re-

It made no difference whether the revelation was made by him or his legal adviser acting within the scope of his authority as agent on his client's behalf. Nor did it matter when the disclosure was made. When a defendant at trial de-

posed to facts not mentioned earlier he might rebut the suggestion that they were a fabrication after the event by calling evidence to show that he had mendoned them to another person at an earlier stage and no waiver was involved even if the evidence was given by him or his legal adviser that that disclosure had been made to the adviser: see R v Wilmot (11989) 89 Cr App R 3411 and R r Condron (1997) 1 WLR 827).

If, in the course of pre-trial police questioning a suspect went be-yond saying that he declined to an-swer on legal advice and explained the basis on which he had been advised, or if, as here, his solicitor actng as his authorised representative gave such an explanation, a waiver of the privilege was involved.

There would, however, be no waiver if, during pre-trial question-ing, the suspect or his solicitor said that the suspect declined to answer

questions on legal advice and the vidence called by the prosecutionat trial was fimited to renorting that simple statement.

If, at trial, the delendant or his solicitor gave evidence not merely of the defendant's refusal to answer pre-trial questions on legal ad-vice but also of the grounds on which such advice was given or if. as here, the defence elicited exidence at trial of a statement made by a defendant or his solictor pretrial of the grounds on which legal questions, the defendant voluntari-by withdrew the veil of privilege and having done so could not resist questioning directed to the nature of that advice and the factual premises on which it had been

His Lordship considered that approach to be consistent with that taken by the court in previous cast es: see Condron (at pR37) and R v Roble ([1997] Crim LR 449) where the court had held that evidence of legal advice not to answer ours tions in interview, although not in itself amounting to a waiver of privi ilege, was unlikely to inhibit the jury from drawing adverse inferences, whereas if the reason for the advice were given, that was likely

to amount to a waiver of privilege. Where grounds for doing so existed it was open to defence course in the absence of the jury to submit that evidence of a police interview should be excluded under section 78 of the 1984 Act or that the judge should direct the jury not to draw adverse inferences from the delendant's silence at interview.

In some cases it might be appropriate to call evidence and then a trial within a trial would be held. If at such a trial evidence was given or elicited by the delence of the grounds on which the delendant was advised by his legal adviser not to answer police questioning that would amount to a waiver of privilege for all purposes and whether the evidence was repeated to the jury or not.

The defendant could not at any stage have his cake and cat it; cither he withdrew the veil and waived privilege or he did not and his privilege remained intact. He could not have it both ways. Here the defence deliberately elicited evidence of the solicitor's statement at the pre-trial interview. There was nothing to suggest that he was not acting within the

scope of his authority as the defendant's agent.

The delendant did not in any way dissent from or disown the statement, he therefore waived his legal professional privilege and it was open to the prosecution to question him about the information he had given to his solicitor.

Solicitors: Trevor Cox & Co.

#### conditions were met and enabled the court or jury to draw such infer-Use of mirrors on site advisory

tol County Court on July 13, 1998.

of his claim against the delendant.

Rosser v Lindsay

The requirement in the Highway Code for the frequent use of mir-rors was addressed primarily to drivers using the highway. For a driver manoeuvring his vehicle on guide but not a prescriptive rule.

Lord Justice Potter so stated sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Thorpe on February 4

dismissing an appeal by the plain-tiff, Colin John Rosser, from the dismissal by Judge Ticeburst in Bris-

Paul Lindsay, the driver of a vehi-cle that hit him, for damages for personal injuries suffered when working as a galeman on a construction site. HIS LORDSHIP said that the

plaintiff criticised the judge for not finding a duty on the defendant to check his mirrors or observe the whereabouts of the plaintiff.

The Highway Code required drivers to use their mirrors before

driving. Those observations were addressed to drivers who might endanger other road users. In the context of a case concerning the manocuvring of traffic on a

moving off and frequently while

construction site, such injunctions were a useful guide, but not a pre-The judge was enutled to treat the plaintiff's argument as a counsel of perfection, rather than the

lest of what amounted to reasona-

Luxembourg

ble care in all the circumstances.

#### **European Law Report**

## Unfair dismissal compensation equivalent to pay for equality law

Regina v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Seymour-Smith and Another

Case C-167/97 Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges P. J. G. Ka-pteyn, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moil-P. Jann, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moil-inho de Almeida, C. Gulmann, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, H. Ragnemalm, L. Sevón, M. Wathelet, R. Schintgen and K. M. loan-

Advocate General G. Cosmas (Opinion July 14, 1998)

Judgment February 9 A judicial award of compensation for breach of the right not to be unfairly dismissed was 'pay' under of Community equal pay law.

The Court of Justice of the Euro-pean Communities so held, inter alia, on a reference by the House of Lords for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty.

By section 64(1) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation)

Act 1978, as amended by the Unlain Dismissal (Variation of Qualifying Period) Order (SI 1985 No 782), the right under section 54 of the Act not to be unfairly dismissed did not apply to employees not continuous ly employed for a minimum period of two years at the date of dismiss-

Similar provisions were contained in sections 94 and 108(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, which was not in force at the male-

By section 68 of the 1978 Act, an industrial tribunal which found a complaint of unfair dismissal well founded could, if no reinstatement or re-engagement order was to be make a compensation award.

On the dismissal by industrial tribunals of complaints of unfair dismissal made by Nicole Sey-mour-Smith and Laura Perez, on the ground that the condition of two years' employment was not sat-isfied, the complainants applied for judicial review of the two-year rule, arguing that it was contrary to Council Directive 76/201/EEC of February 9, 1976 on the imple-mentation of the principle of equal reatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion. and working conditions (O) 1976

The Divisional Court having dismissed the application and the Court of Appeal having declared, on appeal, that the rule was incom-patible with Directive 76/207 (The Times August 3, 1995; 119951 ICR 889) the House of Lords, on further appeal, referred five questions to the Court of Justice on the interpretation of article 119 of the EC Treaty and the directive (The Times March 14, 1997).

Article 119 provides: "Each member state shall ... ensure and maintain the application of the principle that men and women ould receive equal pay for equal work. For the purpose of this arti-cle, pay means the ordinary basic or minimum wage or salary and any other consideration ... which the worker receives, directly or indirectly, in respect of his employ-ment from his employer...

In its judgment the Court of Jus-

The first question was whether a judicial award of compensation for breach of the right not to be unfairly dismissed constituted pay with-in the meaning of article 119 of the

According to settled case law, pay in article 119 comprised all consideration received by the worker in respect of his employment The fact that certain benefits

were paid after the termination of the employment relationship did not prevent them from being in the nature of pay, within article 119. ation granted by an employer to an employee on termi-nation of his employment was a form of deferred pay to which the worker was entitled by reason of his employment, which was paid

to enable him to adjust to the new

circumstances arising from the ter-Compensation for unfair dismissal was designed in particular to give the employee what hewould have earned if the employer had not unlawfully terminated the employment relationship; it was paid to the employee by reason of his employment, which would have continued but for the unfair

The second question concerned the scope of the Community provi-

Where the claim was for compensation, the condition laid down by the disputed rule concerned access to a form of pay to which article 119 of the Treaty and Council Di-rective 75/117/EEC of February 10. 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relatin to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women (O.)

It would be otherwise if the dismissed employee were to seek reinstatement or re-engagement: in that case, the conditions laid down by national law would concern working conditions or the right to take up employment and would therefore fall under Directive

76/207. The third question was whether the legality of a rule of the kind at issue was to be assessed as at the time of its adoption, or when it entered into force, or when the em-

ployee was dismissed. It was to be noted at the outset that the requirements of Community law must be complied with at all relevant times, whether that was the time when the measure was adopted, when it was implement ed, or when it was applied to the

However, the point in time at which the legality of a rule such as the national court might depend on various circumstances, both legal and factual. Thus, where the authority which adopted the act was alleged to have

acted ultra vives, the legality of that act must, in principle, be assessed

at the point in time at which it was On the other hand, in circumstances involving the application to an individual situation of a national measure which was lawfully adopted, it might be appropriate to examine whether, at the time of its

in conformity with Community With regard, in particular, to statistics, it might be appropriate to take into account not only the statistics available at the point in time at which the act was adopted, but also ones compiled subsequently which were likely to provide an in-dication of its impact on men and

The fourth question concerned the test for establishing indirect dis-The issue was whether the measure had a more unfavourable im-

It had to be ascertained whether the statistics available indicated that a considerably smaller percentage of women than men were able to satisfy the condition of two years' employment required by the

dence of apparent sex discriminass the disputed rule were justified by objective factors unrelated to any discrimination based on sex. That could also be the case if the statistical evidence revealed a lesser but persistent and relatively con-

That situation would be evi-

stant disparity over a long period between men and women who satissied the requirement of two years' employment. It would, however, be for the national court to determine the conclusions to be drawn from such statistics. The best approach to the comparison of statistics was to consider, on the one hand, the respective proportions of men in the work-

ment of two years' employment un-der the disputed rule and of those unable to do so, and, on the other, to compare those proportions as regards women in the workforce. It was not sufficient to consider the number of persons affected, since that depended on the number of working people in the member

state as a whole as well as the per-

centages of men and women em-

force able to satisfy the require-

In the present case, it appeared that in 1985, the year in which the requirement of two years' employment was introduced, 77.4 per cent of men and 68.9 per cent of women fulfilled that condition. Such statistics did not appear.

on the face of it, to show that a cun-

ployed in that state.

siderably smaller percentage of women than men were able to fulfil the requirement imposed by the disputed rule.

The final question concerned obiective justification. If a member state was able to show that the measures chosen reflected a necessary aim of its social policy and were suitable and necessary for achieving that aim, the mere fact that the legislative provision affected far more women than men at work could not be regarded

as a breach of article 119. It also had to be shown that the social policy aim was unrelated to any discrimination based on sex and that the measure was capable

of advancing that aim. The United Kingdom mainrained that a member state should merely have to show that it was reasonably enotied to consider that

Buitenland Case C-18/95

Community law provisions on freeer member state.
The Court of Justice of the Euro-

pean Communities so held, inter

(OJ. English Special Edition 1968 (11) p475). The proceedings were brought cial policy aim. It was true that in Case C-3|7/93 Nolte v Landesversicherungsanstalt Hannover 11995I ECR 1-4625, paragraph 33)

the court had observed that, in

choosing the measures canable of

achieving the aims of their social and employment policy, the mem-ber states had a broad margin of However, that could not have the effect of frustrating the implementation of a fundamental princi-

ple of Community law such as that equal pay for men and women. On those grounds the European Coun ruled: I A judicial award of compensation

breach of the right not to be unfairly dismissed constituted pay within the meaning of article 119 of the EC Treaty.

2 The conditions determining

measure adopted by a member state had disparate effect as between men and women to such a degree as to amount to indirect dis

fell within the scope of article 119 of the Treaty. However, the conditions determining whether an em-ployee was entitled, where he had been unfairly dismissed, to obtain reinstatement or re-engagement fell within the scope of Directive 76/207. 3 It was for the nadonal court, tak-

missed, to obtain compensation

ing into account all the material le-gal and factual circumstances, to which the legality of a rule to the effect that protection against unfair dismissal applied only to employees who had been continuously em ployed for a minimum period of two years was to be assessed 4 in order to establish whether a

crimination for the purposes of arti-

and been employed in another

2 Article 48 of the Treaty precluded

a member state from levying, on a

worker who had transferred his

residence in the course of a year

from one member state to another

in order to take up employment

ristics available indicated that a considerably smaller percentage of women than men was able to fulfil the requirement imposed by that If that was the case, there was indirect sex discrimination, unless

that measure was justified by objecove lactors unrelated to any discrimination based on sex. S II a considerably smaller percent age of women than men was capa-ble of fulfilling the requirement of two years' employment imposed by the rule described in paragraph 3 above, it was for the member state. as the author of the allegedly dissaid rule reflected a keritimate aim of its social policy, that that aim was unrelated to any discrimination based on sex, and that it could reasonably consider that the means chosen were suitable for at-

#### whether an employee was entitled, where he had been imlairly disthe measure would advance a socle 119 of the Treaty, the national Expatriate worker can sue own state

Belastingdienst Particulieren/Ondernemingen

dom of movement for workers could be relied on by a worker against the member state of which he was a national, where he had resided and been employed in anoth-

alia, on January 26 when giving. pursuant to a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Gerechtshof te 's-Hertogenbosch (Regional Court of Appeal). The Netherlands, a preliminary ruling on questions on the interpretation of article 48 of the Treaty and arti-cle 7 of Regulation (EEC) No 1512/68 of the Council of October 15, 1968 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community

7 of Regulation No 1612/68 could he relied on by a worker against the member state of which he was

Terhoeve v Inspecteur van de by Mr F. C. Terhoeve, a Netherlands national, in relation to an assessment made on him for income tax and social security contributions for the year 1990, for part of which Mr Terhoeve lived and worked in the United Kingdom. where he had been posted by his

> Article 48 of the Treaty provides: "(I) Freedom of movement for workers shall be secured within the Community

Article 7 of Regulation No 1612/68 provides: "[i] A worker who is a national of a member state may not, in the territory of another member state, be treated thisferently from national workers by reason of his narionality.

"(2) He shall enjoy the same social and tax advantages as national workers..." For reasons given in its judg-ment, the Court of Justice ruled: 1 Article 48 of the Treaty and article

there, greater social security contripayable, in similar circumstances. by a worker who had continued to reside throughout the year in the member state in question, where the first worker was not also entitled to additional social benefits.

3 A heavier contributions burden

on a worker who transferred his

residence from one member state to another in order to take up employment there, which was in principle incompatible with article 48 of the Treaty, could not be justified either by the fact that it stemmed from legislation whose objective was to simplify and co-ordinate the levying of income tax and social security contributions, or by difficulties of a technical nature preventing other methods of collection, or

else by the fact that, in certain circumstances, other advantages re-lating to income tax could offset, or indeed outweigh, the disadvantage as to social contributions. 4 When assessing whether the bur-

den of social security contributions borne by a worker who had transferred his residence from one member state to another in order to take up employment there was heavier than that borne by a worker who had continued to reside in the same member state, all income rele-vant under national law for determining the amount of contributions, including, as the case might be, income arising from real property, must be taken into account. 5 If the contested national legislation was incompatible with article 48 of the Treaty, a worker who transferred his residence from one member state to another in order to take up employment there was entitled to have his social security contributions set at the same level as that of the contributions which would be payable by a worker who had cononued to reside in the

same member state.



N RED LINE

**MOTOR RALLYING** 

## Burns aims to keep his eyes dry in the heat

FROM JEREMY HART IN NAIROBI

THE only chance of moisture falling on the and soil of cenbe if Richard Burns, the Subaru driver, wins a masochist's motoring dream, the Safari Rally, Last year, the Oxford driver cried when he broke his world championship duck on the most gruelling round of

the global series.
"This may be the hardest rally of all but it's not the toughest to win," Burns said on the eve of the start from here in Nairobi today. "Bin to win here you do need a strong hand: good car, good tyres, good pace, good fitness and good luck. Especially good luck. Maybe ten times more than any other event. But I can win again here."

Droughts have turned the Rift Valley into a dust bowl. Each rally car carves up tons of the terracotta brown earth, throwing it up into the hot equatorial air, and starting high up the running order is a distinct advantage.

The Safari is known as a long distance event of old where the drivers never slept and drove for 3,000 miles." Burns, who relishes the chal-lenge, said. 'Now it's a sprint like a European rally, but still with the old conditions."

Teams have to build new cars specifically for the rally. Suspension and transmission are both strengthened and bull bars serve to protect the drivers against big game and local drivers who dare to share

When Burns achieved his first success last year in Nairobi he became only the third British driver to win a round of the world championship, following in the paths of Roger

Clark and Colin McRae. McRae retired from the 1998 Safari Rally after his Subaru suffered engine problems, and

finishing this year, with the

NSURANCE

new Ford Focus unproven in

East Africa's extreme 90

equally difficult.
"Of course, the lack of testing out here will be a potential problem but the reconnaissance went well and, although a win would be a touch optimistic, a finish is not out of the question," McRae said. For Juha Kankkunen.

Burns's team-mate, it will be his 130th rally start, an unridominance over three decades is still relevant, though he is without a world champion-ship victory for five years. "The rally has changed but so have I," he said. "There

might be younger drivers but none with my experience. An old man can still win here."

Tommi Makinen, his Finnish compatriot, has come in for stinging attacks from both McRae and Carlos Sainz, of Spain, for making the sport boring after securing his fifth win in six rallies in Sweden ten days ago. The three-times world champion shrugs off the gibes, though, claiming it is not his fault.

They should drive faster," the Mitsubishi driver said. "We are on a roll and there is no reason not to continue it in Kenya. Only rocks or rhinos

Toyota have not won for over six months and have drafted in lan Duncan, the 1994 winner and a local expert, lo join Sainz and Didier Auriol SEAT, the Spanish team who scored an unexpected sixth place with their twowheel drive Ibiza last year. have Harri Rovanpera and Piero Llatti on board their still new world rally cars.



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## Edwards keeps proving her resilience

## **SARAH POTTER**



land at Twickenham on Saturday to rethe Calcutta Cup and this Sun-day, in Richmond, they will do it all again — this time in the women's Five Nations Championship. The match promises to be as close and combative but, unlike in the men's version, it is Scotland who are the holders of the cup and the Five Nations cham-

pions. England, building towards the next World Cup in three years' time, have opted for some fresh faces and the Scots will be heartened by the absence of some familiar adversaries, among them, Maxine

Edwards, the prop forward.

One of the few black players to wear the white jersey of her country. Edwards will line up for England A — the hors d'oeuvre to the main setback lightly, she intends to serve up a reminder of her power and poise.

"There were some surprises in the team," she said, "but it's our first match of the campaign, so I'll work towards the ones to come. I certainly want to be part of the European ent in April and the next World Cup." Few would bet against it, such is her proven resolve.

If there is an obstacle to be knocked down — opposition forwards included — then Edwards is not one to flinch. She woo her first International cap against Wales nine years ago and has since juggled her time and resources to bring up her son, Sean, 6, and study for a degree at Greenwich Uni-

"Sometimes it has been an enormous struggle," she said.
"Being a student is bad



enough, but being a single parent, and doing my rugby training as well, it's bound to have been a strain. People ask me how I do it but, basically, I don't sit and think about it. I know what I've got to organ-

These were the skills she put to good use as one of the founder members of the Bromley women's club in 1984. "I was into

and squash," she said. "Then I saw a poster in the leisure cen-tre asking for people to help start up a rugby club. I wenl

Football Union for Women in England, there are now 250 affiliated member clubs and 8,000 senior players. In addition, 50 youth sides.

sent us red roses with a tribute

to our success in the tourna-

ment. It was very touching

and made us think they really

were taking notice of what we

were doing. Since then, we've

had guest coaches to our train-

ing sessions, including Clive Woodward."

Fitting then, that the wom-

en are seeking to emulate

their southern hemisphere

rivals, in an effort to become

ise and I get oo with it." also getting more support from the men," Edwards said. "After the last World Cup, the RFU [Rugby Football Unioo]

karate, tennis

to the first meeting and that was that. There weren't many women's clubs then, and we didn't know what we were doing on the pitch, but it was Now the sport is enjoying a

boom. The Sports Council has identified rugby as one of the fastest growing women's sports and, according to Rosie Golby, secretary of the Rugby

world champions. England lost their World Cup semi-final to New Zealand, the eventual winners, last year in from 12 to 16-year-olds, are spreading the game to a younger audience. "We're

'Being a student, a single parent and doing

rugby training is bound to be a strain'

There is a big difference between us," Edwards said. New Zealand are very strong but they have a different level of support. They can train

without having to worry about work and although we

are now getting lottery fund-ing, it is not yet enough to

Unlike many of her team-

mates. Edwards is fortunate

that her employers, British

Telecom, grant ber paid leave

to play. They also sponsored

her three-year degree in business and promotion sys-

tems. "My current manager

gives me time to go into the gym every day," she said. "I

close that gap.

Her daily training routine, not to mention the three-hou

work it round my job. so that's

round trip from her home in Catford, southeast London, to her club, Saracens, sometimes causes strain, though she has supportive family and friends as back-up. "My son loves the Saracens girls and wants to play rogby, too," she said. "I

plan it later. I Sean, but I don't regret him in any way. "It's made me see things

differently, so maybe I've got a balance about things if I don't get picked or something At 33, some might take her demotion to the A team as a signal that her international career is over. Not so Edwards. "There's oo peak

age," she said. "You have to be

good enough and want it - I

## Harvey signed to follow Walsh

CRICKET: Gloucestershire have signed Ian Harvey as nave signed ian Harvey as their overseas player for the 1999 season. Harvey, who has played II limited-overs internationals for Australia. has been recruited for his medium-paced bowling, but is also expected to make a valuable contribution as a middle-order batsman. Harvey, who succeeds Courtney Walsh, said yesterday: "I am really excited about this opportunity. Gloucestershire have a reputation as a rapidly developing side." TENNES: The world No I. Martina Hingis, wasted no time reaching the quarter-finals of the Paris Indoor Open yesterday, racing to a 6-I, 6-L victory over Sandra Nacuk, of Yugoslavia, in just 41 minutes. Hingis, playing her first match since her victory in the Tokyo tournament, pocketed the first set with the cheekiest of drop shots and never looked back.

**ATHLETICS:** Michael Johnson, the double Olympic champion, and Marion Jones, the world championship 100 metres gold medal-winner, will compete in two international meetings in South Africa next month. The first is at Roodepoort, near Johannesburg, on March 19 and the second in Cape Town

MEE

a week later. **BADMINTON:** Ricky A. Subagia and Rexy Mainaky, the top-seeded doubles pairing from Indonesia, were beaten on the opening day of the world grand prix finals in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunel. They lost to their compatriots, Flady Limpele and Eng Hian, 15-6, 8-15. 15-10.

**SKING:** Anita Wachter, of Austria, won the women's giant statom race at the World Cup meeting in Are Sweden, yesterday, beating Andrine Flemmen, of Norway, by six-hundredths of

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By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent In the Trials to select the British team for the 1999 European Championships Tony Forrester judged this hand well.

Game all 0 063 ♣ K872 **♠** KJ94 ♥ KQ18752 ♦ A652 4 AQJ10 4 Q782 ♥ Ja

2 H (1) Double (2) 3 C (3) 3 S (4)

(1) As East-West were playcorrectly raised hearts rather than introducing his spades. (2) I think this is unwise. The opponents may be on their way to game, and in that case the double will help declarer in the play. It is true that players nowadays dou-ble light in this position. For

example, on: \$\dag{A1063} \gamma 4 \leftrightarrow K463 \div K463 \div K4672 many tournament players would double if the auction started the same way. This is sometimes referred to as "pre-protection". The theory is that the hand with shortage in the opponents' suit should strain to enter the auction - it will be more difficult for his partner to protect if he has length in the

opponents' suit. (3) Had North passed Two Hearts East might well have jumped straight to Four

Hearts. But after the double there is a distinct chance that a spade contract, and it is important for East to indicate a club lead, as the king is likely to be on his right. (4) Obviously hoping for a more suitable hand opposite. (5) For penalties of course.

(6) Now the possibility of making Four Hearts has receded, with partner likely to have only three hearts, and marked with high cards in spades. And partner is likely to be short in clubs, so there is a good chance of three tricks there.

After a club lead and the king of hearts switch, declarer returned a heart. East won with the king, put his partner in with a diamond, and three more rounds of clubs promoted an extra spade trick for West, for three down.

#### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LATIMER a. A schoolboy's satchel b. An interpreter

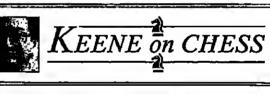
c. A greave MAIZENA a. Maize starch

 b. The shrew-mouse c. A placebo ointment

b. A medieval head-dress c. Torture by water drips MYGALE a. An Aegean island

> a. A fillet b. An ouidoor candle c. A tup lamb

LAMBEAU



White: Peter Leko

Linares 1999

Nxd4 Nc3 Be3 f3

Black: Veselin Topalov

Sicilian Defence

Nbd7

BY RAYMOND KEENE

Fighting spirit

Although all the games were drawn in round three of the elite tournament at Linares in Spain, there was no lack of fighting spir-it. The two draws that follow, in particular, displayed enormous enterprise.

White: Garry Kasparov Black: Viswanathan Anand Linares 1999 Queens Gambit Accepted

e4 Nf3 Bhe4 O-O Bb5 Nbd2 e5 Ng5 Bc4 Nxe6 b4

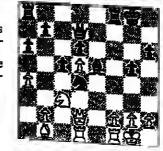
Diagram of final position

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Bengtson Ivanov. Washington 1998. How did Black bring the struggle to an abrupt conclu-



RACING: POOR TURNOUT FOR WINCANTON CHASE SUGGESTS GOLD CUP CLUES WILL BE THIN ON THE GROUND

# Double Thriller frightens off rivals

By CHRIS MCGRATH

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IT IS very much a case of heap thrills for those seeking endorsement of their Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup and Martell Grand National antepost vouchers at Wincanton today. Double Thriller inspired many such investments with the casual power of his success last month over the course and distance of today's Jim Ford Challenge Cup. He evidently made quite an impression on trainers of the horse's potential rivals, too.

These were reduced to just three overnight, which not only renders the race little more than an opportunity to show off, but also ensures that Double Thriller should go to Cheltenham with his "dark horse" status unilluminated. That will not worry Joe Tiz-zard or Paul Nicholls, who can eep Double Thriller fresh and confident for sterner as-

signments ahead. Nicholls would have appreciated some more penetrative sparring partners. "All you can say is that he should win well, without telling us a lot apart from his general well-being," the local trainer said. "I would have preferred another five or six nice horses and

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

for it to have been a good race. but the great thing is that he shouldn't have too hard a time. It'll help tighten him up for Cheltenham and Aintree." Though his hunter chase defeat of Teeton Mill last spring

- the grey's sole defeat under Rules - remains somewhat equivocal evidence, there is no doubt that the brawny Double Thriller (2.35) has the potential to prove a blot on the Na-tional handicap. But Cheltenham tops the agenda and the Festival, less than three weeks away, is also in mind for several horses contesting five other races on Channel 4 - notably the Axminster 100 Kingwell Hurdle.

Yet there appears little pros-pect of the winner getting any closer to Istabraq in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle

went on to finish third at Cheltenham after winning this last year. Grey Shot will be hard to pass dropped back in trip, though he is likely to be taken on by Fataliste and Upgrade. Between them they may set the race up for Chai-Yo (3.10), who likes to pounce late.

The ground may have dried out sufficiently for Wilmon's Fancy (2.05) to outpace the dour Bosuns Mate in the Dick Reynolds "NH" Auction Novices' Hurdle, while Moor Lane (3.40) is progressing apace and can complete a treble in the Tote Chase. His Doncaster form was franked when Manasis returned there yesterday.

At Huntingdon, Dangerus Precedent (3.25) will no doubt be at short odds to extend his sequence in the National Let-terbox Marketing Juvenile Novices Hurdle. He should do so if jumping with the same facility as at Doncaster last time, though frailties in the same department - along with faster ground - discourage interest in Tiraldo, who otherwise has ample ability for the Stephen Dean Novices' Chase. Heavens Above (2.50) offers each-way value.
Pataliste will be ridden in

the Kingwell by Tony McCoy.

John McNamara, the amateur jockey, was given a ten-day ban for improper riding on Machouse Lady in the bumper at Doneaster yesterday. Me-Namara was deemed to have failed to pull her op after she went lame during the race. It transpired that Machouse Lady had fractured a leg and she had to be put down.

returning after a fall at Lud-

low on Tuesday. His mount is not in the Champion, where the Pipe stable has lost the sharpest arrow in its quiver in Wahiba Sands. He was missing from yesterday's acceptors - another major reverse for the champion owner. David Johnson, after his Gold Cup hope, Cyfor Malta, was ruled out for the rest of the season. Johnson said: "Wahiba Sands has had a setback. It's very disappointing as my three best horses for Chelten-ham will now be at Pond House for the Festival. Cyfor Malra, then Tipstaff, of whom I had great hopes, and now Wahiba Sands. He would have an outside chance of getting there, but we don't want to take a chance as he is next

year's Arkie winner."



Midnight Legend runs in Wincanton's Kingwell Hurdle

THUNDERER 1.35 Andanito 3.40 Seymourswift 2.05 Bosuns Mate 4.15 Miss Fara 2.35 Double Thriller 4.50 Neat Feat 3.10 Grey Shot 5.20 Mestre Sala

1.35 GEORGIE NEWALL NOVICES CHASE (25,225: 2m) (5 runners) BETTWIC: 7-4 Distant Echa, 2: 1 County Beau; 7-2 Andreito, 12-1 Bouchaspor, Jant Boyard, 68-1 Most Foybory.
1998: COOL, GUNNER 9-11-2 A P McCoy (13-2) J May 9 mm

2.05 DICK REYNOLDS NATIONAL BURNT AUCTION NOVICES MURDLE (£10,755; 2m 6f) (11 numers)

11-211 BOSHES MATE S4 F.E.S.) 61 Partney N Trainers of the State of th BETTHER: 2-1 Bosons Mate. 3-1 Matter Records, 4-1 Horsens De For, 5-1 Willoudt's Fancy, 14-1 Lord Modile, Grail-ble Goy, 16-1 Juzz Deha, 29-1 offices. 1988: MELOTY MAID 6-10-7 M A Flogenid (7-2) K Hendesses 7 cm

Business Males best Yeomen Sultor Si in 10-tower reviews Aurent at Mea-bury (3m 110/n), sett), Lord Moole hell in avera deser al Coelembras (2m hundle at Festerell (2m 27 110/n), sett of tower to Fer heat Kery's Oats Si in 15-towers routes in 15 to Native Buck in navice handless bendle at Uttower (11th werse on 1) 13 de. Arganthy a desarrour 7th of 15 to Native Buck in navice handless bendle at Uttower (3m 110/n), heavy), Native Recruit 10t Sit of 7 to Re-ton in navice hundle grade 2 at Sandown (2m 61, good), with Lord Nation (2m 31 10/n), grout), Settlich Recruit Fancy heat Bore Bors 81 in 15-tower measure handle at Herotord (2m 31 10/n), grout), Gettlich Recruit Help heat Master Reseas neck in 12-tower resional hand last near at Cherostor (2m 110/n), grout in 10/n), Jazz Delin 1931 2md of 12 to Nobel 1994 in availor handle at Fauntic (3m 110/n), grout to soft), Molly, Fitz Lud 101-4th of 8 to Errigal in novice fundle at Salashiam (2m 44, 50ft).

BOSLINS MATE profes planty of appeal to his search for a troble

**COURSE SPECIALISTS** 

2.35 JIM FORD CHALLENGE CUP CHASE

(£13,615; 3m 1f 110yd) (4 ninners) 1896: GO BALLISTIC 9-11-0 A Dobbin (8-1) J O'Shea 6 ran

Wayward King Lhori head 2nd of 4 is Frying Instructor as handicap chase at leastery 2an 45, goods. Double Troffer hast Malwood Cartle a distance in 5-hands handled cross as Westernative Chart II 1964, 2001; revenue-hy-li-2nd of 11 to Last Guiden or covice hands chase at Stantions (time 41, good to firm). Beyond Gref ureast in handicap chase at Chaption Card 21 1044, good to stall; provincely 24-2 and of 3 in Charter in handicap chase at Restance Card 11 1044, good), Meding 341 7th of 16 to Length Lens Spall its works handicap chase at Hardword (2m 31, good). Gold Cop hope DOLIBLE THROUGH is strough in oppose

C4 3.10 AYMINSTER 100 KINGWELL HURDLE (Grade II: £19,340; 2m) (6 runners) 1 44211- FATALISTE 329 (D.F.S) (I Painting) M Pipe 6-11-7
2 11/331 MADWRENT (ESSEN) 19 (2D.F.S.S) (Mr. H Christ) O Michinson 8-11-7 (R. Jahmson 128
3 64-460 BCHATOM 12 (V.CD.F) (Londario Saul) D Exegrit 6-11-2 P. Holley 119
4 050-18 CHATO 102 (D.E.S) (N Verey) J Did 9-11-2 T.J. Microby 147
5 1-1126 GREY SHOT 26 (CD.E.S) (N Michine) 18 saldog 7-11-2 J. October 1838
6 PURPE UPGRADE 12 (D.E.S) (M Archer & J Brothoust) N T-Owies 5-11-2 C Univerlya 3.55

BETTING 4-5 Bry Stat, 9-2 Medicin Legand, 5-1 Fataliste, 6-1 Clast-Yo, 12-1 Libyrade, 14-1 Beralam.

Friedliste begit Dawn Leader short head it 10-tower sovice burdle gade 2 at Abstract 2011 10-tower sovice burdle gade 2 at Abstract 2011 10-tower sovice burdle gade 3 at Abstract 2011 10-tower 2011 GREY SHOT, back to a wrone spatishin trip, can page and Midwight Laguard

C4 3.40 TOTE CHASE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP) (£7,393; 2m 5f) (10 runners)

BETTING 5-2 Moor Land, 7-2 Responsepol. 8-1 Linker Rocks, Mr Playlull, 9-1 Marchange, 10-1 Architectus, Say-encussed, 14-1 Beyond Our Reach, 20-1 offers.

1906: CAPERWRAY 9-10-3 A Dubbin (5-2 br) J x3rg 7 cm Linton Rocks 2141 2nd of 9 to Sent America in Inspection; chance at Kempton Cam, good or serit), Moor Larne best Marwins 1141 in 7-instead operate classe at Passepton Cam 5, sectil. Recognization Cam 51, 11004, good to sectil. Not Passepton Cam 53, sectil. Recognization beat 6401 Med. 2 in 12-current beatforup chance at all sections Cam 41 11004, good in scale with Servintensivelt (60b better of) 6444 4th and Servintension (60b beater of) 6444 4th and 5450 beater of) LIBITOR POCKS, ridden by an account/febad arrateur, in taken in daily his two weight

4.15 MERE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,780, 2m) (18 turners)

ANGLIS ALL: L Fatter in R. 2016; 3-11-5

GATTO 48: G. Coutth 1 Marc 5-11-5

GATTO 48: G. Coutth 1 Marc 5-11-5

G-2225 ESTATE GASENT 68: Dil. P. (1 8. J. Cany) P. Natholic 6-11-5

J. TIZZARD 1537

HESSTY ISLAND 1537: U residued a M. Hickbody M. Piman 6-11-5

DATINACH 48: Russers of Pember 3: G. Natherson 6-11-5

R. Notemann - PECCARLLO C. Edetect R. Russers (1 - 11-5

R. NOOMESON 27: (B.BF) LJ. AS Racing Sackled Mas. J. Peman 7-11-5

R. Domannon - PECCARLLO C. Edetect R. Russers (1 - 11-5

R. NOOMESON 27: (B.BF) LJ. AS Racing Sackled Mas. J. Peman 7-11-5

R. Domannon - PECCARLLO C. Edetect R. Russers (1 - 11-5

R. Domannon - PECCARLLO C. Edetect R. Russers (1 - 11-5)

S. ROOD THINGS GRIZ 29: (R reads Partnership) C. Weston S-11-5

B. Powell - S-13-5

S. GOOD THINGS GRIZ 29: (R reads R. R. File Br. 1-11-0

S. FOX S. R. Russers (1 - 11-5)

S. FOX S. R. Russers (2 - 11-5)

S. FOX S. R. Russers (2 - 11-5)

R. MARCHEN RUSSEASS 23: (F Bensal P. Nicholis 4-19-9

R. ATHER RUSSEASS 23: (F Bensal P. Nicholis 4-19-9

R. ATHER RUSSEASS 23: (F Bensal P. Nicholis 4-19-9

R. CARLON B. T. J. Mauriny 102

R. RACES PLET 18-5 (F Grig) (R Hussen 4-11-9)

R. CARLON B. C. Russers (1 - 11-5)

R. Husser Russers (1 - 11-5)

R. Hussers Russers (1 - 11-5)

R. H BETTRES: 3-1 Estate Agent, 1-2 Mass Faca, 6-1 Radiocolos, 7-1 Henry Island, 0-1 Faiher Avennes, 12-1 Foxes Tail, Tailes Of Boardy, 14-1 others.

1996: BEHATORA 5-11-5 P Holley (5-6 tax) O Flowarth 18 can

4.50 ILCHESTER HANOICAP HURDLE (£3,610: 2m) (12 runners)

Long handkap: Slovecum 9-12.

BETTING: 9-2 Hot 'n Saucy, 11-2 Sybresies, 6-1 Daetle, 7-1 Alon Alwer, Bruch With Time, 9-1 Neal Feat, 1wo To Targo, 18-1 others

. . . . . 1996: SUPPRINCK 7-11-7 AP McCon (4-1) M Pion 11 can

5.20 GOLF COURSE STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,474: 2m) (18 runners)

STRATCO (W Demis) W Demis 5-11-4 MB Batchelor (5)
SLAMBLEMY (Debotes in Racing) in Beatchelor (5-11-4) D'Southern (7)

4) THE LIGHTLANGER 733 (Decta Lighton) Systems; in Almor 6-11-4 Mr. J. D. Moorn (7)
TUM COBRELER (I Cases) in Treason-Devel; 5-11-4 J. Soldstein (3)
SHARED ANTEREST (D. Adams) S. Kongh (5-10-13) Mr. J. Jefford
BARRETTSTUMM (D. Loheson) M. Pice 4-10-8 S. Supple (3)
CALHOUN Mar. R. Sany) P. Hother, 4-10-8 S. D. Michael (5)
GRAND COMMANCIEC (P. Kone) W 6-M Touter 4-10-8 S. D. Michael (5)
IT'S ALL GOOD RIN (Lies Good For Case) M. Pirram 4-10-8 Mr. D. COMSTRAI
MSTRES SALA MA'S SECRETA, Gabb & Garbern H. Daly 4-19-6 Mr. R. Forestein (5)
NOAKI (6) York; it York 4-10-8 Mr. P. York

SETTING: 11-4 Toro Coholer, 7-2 Mizitistone Magnat, V.s AV Good Fan, 9-2 Av Luc, 8-1 Burntishow, 12-1 Hacian Bul, 19-1 Meste Sala, 20-1 others. . 1998: ESTATE AGENT 5-11-11 | Company (9-4 tax) P Nachobs 16 rat

THUNDERER 1,25 Red Raja. 1.55 Beguile. 2.25 Key To The City. 3.00 Sleave Silk. 3.35 Tear White. 4.10 Summer

Bounty, 4,40 Genius, 5.10 REDOUBTABLE (nap). GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.25 SEA OF H.E.A.T. & BARRIER AIR/COND HANDICAP (Div I: £1,688: 2m) (10 runners)

5 -126 BPA LAME 13 (D.F.6.5) Mt 5 Clamman 8-8-9 \_ J Sorian 6 B D5-0 ABLISAMRAH 71 A T Morphy 4-8-5 \_ / Williams 3 I D0-0 ALIGOHAD 17 (B.S) Dr J Scripti 4-8-3 \_ F Notice 1 6 0-00 SOVIET LADY 14 (C) R Inguint 5-1 \_ M Pailerd 23 B 9 005 - RD BROOK LAD 20J (B) S Dov 4-7-11 \_ P Doc (3) 5 I 0 D500 CDASTISIARDS HERO 3J (CD) B Pearce 6-7-18 B Bentwed 4 5-2 Rad Raia, 4-1 Premes League, 5-1 Perturnos Mission, 6-1 Sps Lane, 0-1 Ni Du Litrata, Rad Brook Lad, 16-1 Abreaurah, Coordinates Herz, 20-1 nitrata.

1.55 SEA OF H.E.A.T. DIMPLEX & S.P. ELECTRICA HANDICAP (Div I: £1,728: 1m) (12)

1 540-MELLORS 753 (\*CD.F.6) M Heaton-Effe 6-10-0 — A Daly (\$) 4
2 \$353 ERTLON 0 (\*CD.F.6) C British 9-9-12 — T Symbol 3
3 2-36 RAMPBOW RAME 13 (\*CD.P.) S Dow 5-9-11 — P. Diec (\$) 3
4 \*C2-1 PRODISEAL SUM 122 kies V Ward 4-9-9 — M Polisaci (\$) 11
5 \$235 KI CH 5-66 B 8 (9.00) P Bargoree 7-9-4 — M Veniure 2
6 0-02 FAMOUS 16 (6-76.5) J Infragree 6-9-2 — R Bristand (\*) 7
7 P-40 FLYTARE FROSPECT 33 (0.F.5) M A Beckiny 5-9-11 A Cultimate 9
8 3-46 BESILE 33 B Johnson 5-8-10 — S Riphana (\*) 12
9 0-00 SHONTANE 17 (\*CD.F.6) M Johnson 6-8-8 R Riphanaic (\*) 8
10 0125 \*CLORNE 9 (\*CD.F.5) R Ingress 5-8-4 — J Bookey (\*) 18
11 E541 KAMAWA 3 A P Junes 5-8-2 (\*6ad) — J Bookey (\*) 18
12 \*DO-0 MRS MEDILE 51 (5) D Chapman 4-7-13 — T Williams 6-1
12 \*DO-0 MRS MEDILE 51 (5) D Chapman 4-7-13 — T Williams 6-1
14 Million 6-1 Production (Kamana, 13-2 Rambow Risin, 7-1 Famous, Comos, 8-1 5-1 Melicos, 6-1 Prodiget Son, Kamero, 13-2 Rainbow Rato, 7-1 Farmors, Connes, 8-1 Beguile, 16-1 others.

2.25 SEA OF H.E.A.T. & ECA APPRENTICES CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (\$2,558: 1m 4f) (9) 1 -042 TBME CAN TELL 14 (C.G) A Judies 5-9-5 S Righton 2 4 000 LAW DANCER 200 T Judie 6-9-3 Lies Hacidos (S. 5 4 155 CARENAPERN BAY 9 (C) 6 L Morre 4-9-2 R Brisherd 1 4 0011 SHANGBAY LL 7 (CD) M Februar-Godey 1-8-10 P Goods 6 5 -204 Key TO THE CHY 18 (S.) P Exists 5-8 1 -8-10 P Goods 6 7 6 500 AMOSK (S. AMOS 10.1 6 Cherts Jones 6-8-8 L Neuman 7 6 500 AMOSK (S. AMOS 10.1 6 Cherts Jones 6-8-8 L Neuman 7 6 6 0067 P RANCHS REPORT 27 (CD.F. 8) R Brotherton 9-8-6 P Frodericks 9 8 0065 PRIVATE SSAL 9 (E.) 1 C Public 4-8-4 P Giardo (S. 4) Standard 18 1 Lawren 18 10 10 Doors Park CHYSTER 22 (E) B Peace 4-8-2 J South (S. 4) Standard 18 1 Lawren 18 10 10 Doors P RANCHS REPORT 18 10 10 DOORS P RANCHS P RA 6-4 Shanghai Lil, 3-1 key to The City, 11-2 Law Dancer, 6-1 Time Can Tell, 10-1 others.

> RACELINE HUNT DON 102 202. UNGFIELD 103 203 103 203 120 220 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

3.00 SEA OF HEAT, & BARRIER AIR/COND HANDICAP (Div II: £1,688; 2m) (9)

3.35 SEA OF H.E.A.T. & STIEBEL ELTRON HANDICAP (£3,556: 5f) (5)

4.10 SEA OF HEAT. & SPACE AIR MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,022: 1m 2f) (6)

1 -445 BILICIANS B P Howlog 9-0 -2 0-32 KMR R-VET 16 H Collegation 9-0 -3 025 - SMARER BOUNDY 14/8 H M8-9 -4 0-6 DICKLANDS MERC 14 R Philips 8-9 -5 MARRY MC C SHABI 8-9 -6 Q0-3 TEX N PICK 14 B descent 8-9 -4-5 Summer Bounty, 7-4 King Plyer, 19-1 Marry Ma, 16-1 Billiothern, 25-1 others.

4.40 SEA OF H.E.A.T. DIMPLEX & S.P. ELECTRICA HANDICAP (Div N: £1,718: 1m) (11)

1 3-00 (SPHIS 28 (CD) S Dow 44-33 P Dox (C) 8
2 00-2 XNSS HAPMONY 12 (C.P.) R lagram 6-9-11 J Sacque (7) 18
3 4-00 POWDER ROYET 12 (C.P.) R lagram 6-9-11 J Sacque (7) 18
4 2006 RAMWAS 86 (CD) Mess 6 Releasey 4-9-5 P Fredericks (S) 9
5 (ESS4 L'ESTABLE R'LEMET 10 (C.P.) B Sacque 4-9-3 J Western 1
6 5-22 LAMBERTH 3 (C) R DOX (C) R DOX (C) R P Price 3
8 000- MSS SKYC 80 (C) Miss 8 Sacque 4-9-1 A Clark 5
9 05-0 TARPADALE 13 (D.S) C South 5-8-3 D Morrach (5) 4
10 0-55 VELYET JONES 12 G Clark schools 6-9-1 L Newpram (7) 7
11 000- COURTINET SYM 128 P Surgopos 4-7-12 J Table 11 11-4 Landrium, 4-1 Kings Harmony, L'Estable Pleurin, 5-1 Microtch, 7-1 Genius, 14-1 Manteng, 10-1 Plander Rivet, Taxtable, 25-1 oteors.

5.10 SÉEBOARD CONTRACTING SERVICES HANDICAP (£2,946: 7f) (8)

9-4 Resoublishs, 4-1 Phylic Part, 5-1 Actor Year, 6-1 Delight Cli Court, 6-1 Best Great, Mustherl, 12-1 Selector Ridge, 14-1 Logardes. COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSPRIST M. A Buckley, 3 wheness from 14 numers, 21.4%; D. Chapman, 21 from 118, 17.8%; Sk M. Pressell, 16 from 107, 17.8%; B. Hills, 13 from 74, 17.8%; M. Johnston, 48 from 262, 17.0%; P. Eccles, 3 from 19, 16.8%. 74, 71,782 m. generalis, va branza lega. 14 rides, 29,5%; J. Wisser, 58 from 374, 22,5%; L. Carler, 4 bran 19, 27,1%; N. Potted, 12 lega 72, 15,4%; W. Ryan, 43 from 357, 16,1%; A. Cultana, 16 from 117, 15,4%; RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Doncaster

Golog: good to firm, good in places 2.00 (2m 110) of India) 1, Overtonen (R Dunwood), 4-5 (av); 2, Lobuche (33-1); 3, Pacidin: Parky (100-1), 15 ran. 6, 74. J FitzGereid, Tote: \$1.70; \$1.10, \$5.10, \$22.00. DF: \$20.40. CSF. \$30.89.

2.30 (Sm ch) T, Stormyfelrweether (MA Ptopenal, 4-7 lay); 2, Grate Deal (8-1); 3, Mr Perlupp (83-1), 7 ran, 18, 144 N Hend-erson, 164: C1.50; C1.40, 52.10. DF. E3.40, CSF: £4.87. 2.3.0. CST: 10vd hole) T. Slager Fox (R Dunwoody, 14-1); 2. Hoh hwader (4-1); 3. 1-19 Fox Action (10-1), Kelbyn's Pet (8th) 1-19c.9 ren. NF: Sant Cet. 11:3, 11-1 Mrs J. Phrent. Tota: 153.70, 12-20, 11:50, 123.60. OF: 127.30. Tota: 2-445.40. CSF: 265.40. Tricase, 1546.92.

3.35 (2n/3f 110yd ch) 1, Marnaels (A Dob-bin, 7-2 twl); 2, Carriste Banddo's (11-2), 3, Dragons Bay (12-1); 4, Verywell (25-71, 18 ren. 14, 24, S Brockshaw, Tote: 24.30, 21.70, 21.30, 62.80, 98.50, DF: 68.90, CSF: 220.37

4.05 (2n 4f hole) T, Christiansted (A Meguirs, 1-2 isv); 2, Lembrir Lad (10-1); 3, Northday (50-1), 9 ran 24l, hd F Mur-phy, Tote 12-20; 61 10, 61 80, 67-20. DF: 94-40, CSF. 95-85. A-A0 (2m 3) 110 yd ch) 1, Herfdecent (P Nhen, 2-1 (av); 2, Jason's Boy (14-1); 3, Count Kermuelt (5-2); 9 ran, AR; Anoth-er Red, Planning Miracle, 12, 41, Mrs M Reveley, Totar 52,70; 51 40, 52,40, 51,30, DF, 517,80 (CSF, 528,87, Tricest, 555,08. 5.16 (2m 110yd net hurt flet) 1, Ballet-K (R Johnson, 8-1), 2, Goodhyns Lady (3-1 fav); 3, Wymyard Dancer (8-1) 18 nen. 61, 102 J Naville, Tote: £6.50, £2.70, £1.60, £2.50 DF. £8.90, CSF £29.52.

Jackpot: 0896.40, Placepot: 522.80, Quadpot: 513.30,

RICHARD EVANS LANE MOOR LANE

Months was booked by the victory of the remain-any yesterday, and be libbs thirty treated on his handican chase debut NB Nonvent Cheval 5.00 Hunsingdon

Folkestone Going: good to soft 2.20 (2m 11 110)d hidler 1, Charlie Chang (Mr R Fornistal, 6-1); 2 inclination (14-1); 3, Goldon Fawn (100-30 lav); 14 rer. 10, 21-8 Llewellyn Tote £6.60, £3-40, £3-20, £1-70 DF £33-60, CSF £73-13 Tricast; £299-55

2.50 (2n 61 110) d hdie) 1. Hol To Trot (N Williamson, 8-15 tay), 2. Feflys Conquest (12-1), 3. Sépcan (15-5) 9 (an NR Magac Lamp 3\*4, dist. K Balley Tore £1 50. £1.00, £1.60. £1.10. DF. £3.80. CSF: £7 18. 2.75 (2m ch) 1. Super Misc (C Llewellyn, 17-2), 2. Head For Heaven (10-1); 3. Prist Instance (3-1 tay), 9 ran, 3, 4, 1-Hedger, Toter (15-9), 11-90, 12-30, 11-50, DF: 644-30 CSF, 553-43 Tricast:

2.15 (2m 11 110yd hclie) 1, Miscondust (W Marston, 31-4 fav. Richard Evans's nep), 2, Kerrys Oass (12-1), 3, Keen Bd (20-1); 4, Mr Leror (25-1), 16 fan. 21, 34 Mrs Memta Jones Tote (2-20, 11-49, 53-30, 53-70, 19-70, DF, 230-10 CSF 533-0, 5370, 19-70, DF, 230-10 CSF 533-0, 7370, 19-70, DF, 230-10 CSF

4,25 (2m 5i ch) 1, Tomcappagh (M C Gordon, 14-1); 2, Halfs Mill (11-8 fav); 3, Sunczech (7-4) 11 fan 124, 15f. Mis 5 Wall Tole: C13.20, C1.70, C1.50, C1.20, DF: C12.20, CSF: C33.13 DF (1220, USF (33.13 5.00 (2m d) 110yd hdle) 1, Equity's Der-ting, U Culloty, 10-1), 2, Fountain Bd (7-1), 3, Be My Mot (9-4 tal), 7 ran NR-Seleel, 14, 42, D O'Bhen Tote C6 00, 23 BD, 52 SD, DF; 579 BD, CSF 567 32, Tri-Placepot: £147.50. Quadpot: £97.50.

Wolverhampton Going: standard 2.10 (7) 1, Golconda (M Fenton, 2-7 lav); 2, Sea-Belle (10-11, 3, State Wind (5-1), 7 ran. NR Franch Spice 114, 31 M Belt Tote, £1.30; £1 10, £3.60 DF, £7.30. CSF, £5.06.

CSF. 15300. (CSF. 1530) 1. State of Caution (D Sweeney. 5-11, 2, Else Hope (5-2 lav), 3, Trogen Hero (7-2) 10 ran, 114, 21 K Burke Tote. 5:30. £1:80, £1:40, £1:10. DF: £6:40 CSF. £17:05. 3.15 (1m 4t) 1. China Castle (P Goode, 5-4 tay), 2. Green Bopper (5-2), 3. White Plans (6-1), 6 ran. Sh hd, 2'vl, P Haslam Tole: (2-00, £1.20, £1.40 DF, £3.30, CSF.

24 50. 1, Priesso Lara (P Geode, 4-1), 2, Mangus (6-1); 3, Sotonian (7-2 co-tay) Classy Cleo (5-1), 7-2 co-tay (7-2 co-tay) Toto, 15-30, £2-40, £5-20 DF. £30.10 CSF £33.37. 4.15 (1m 100yd 1, Kingchip Boy (P Mc-cabe, 6-1), 2, Josephs Wire (9-4 g-lav) 3, Snavsee (12-1), Rich Bellenna (4th) 9-4 g-lav 13 ran Mc, 61 M Ryon Tote: D5 50, 22 20, £1.80, £2.40, DF £12.00, CSF £18 43 4.50 (1m 11 79yd) 1, High Noon (J Tate, 4-1), 2, Prospector's Cove (3-1 (-k-v), 3, King Pham (10-1) Diamond Flame 3-1 (-lav 9 ian 1'd nk N Littmoden Tote:

Placepot: £48.20. Quadpot: £20.10.

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER 1.45 Surprise Gunner 3.25 Dangerus Precedent

4.00 Destin D'Estruval 4.30 O My Love 5.00 Palatia

2.50 Tiraldo Timekeeper's top rating: 4.30 O MY LOVE. Carl Evans: 4.00 Destin D'Estruval.

going: good (good to firm in places) — tote Jackpot Meeting — sis

1.45 SAWTRY FEN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,808: 2m 4( 110yd) (22 runners)

2.15 River Bay

(\$2,808: 2m 4( 110yd) (\$2 (unnets))

3.55 Saver Worders 19 (October Record) N fraction-binds 5-11-18 . T Jenks 77

5-56 THE LEADER 19 (October) P R Webter 6-11-6 . J A McCardhy 46

3.65 Saver Numbers 19 (October) P R Webter 6-11-6 . J A McCardhy 46

3.65 Saver Numbers 19 (October 19 R Webter 6-11-6 . R Thomson 91

2.65 Ball Striping 6 (G Habbers) C Rivertage 5-11-4 . C Homour (7) 95

5-11-27 A SHABAN 93 (8.C) (3.2 Hab 1 B. Jabry 1) (Wilbert 5-11-2 . R Webter 10

1.65 Saver Numbers 19 (G March 19 (G M Habber 1) (Wilbert 5-11-2 . R Webter 10

1.65 Liperin 77 (G) (March 19 December 11 Cardy 6-10-12 . J Magner 10

1.65 Saver Numbers 20 (G M Habber 1) (Wilbert 5-10-12 . M A Forerard 91

1.65 Saver Numbers 20 (G M Argar 8 Most 1) (Wilbert 19 (Wils 5-10-12 . W Greating 61)

1.6 Saver 19 (G M Argar 8 Most 19 (G M Habber 1) (Wils 5-10-12 . R Gusts 51)

1.7 Cardin 6 (G M Habber 19 (G M Argar 8 M Habber 5-10-11 . R Gusts 51)

1.8 Garder 19 (G M Argar 8 M Habber 5-10-11 . R Gusts 51)

1.9 Cardin 6 (G M Habber 2) (G M Argar 8 M Habber 5-10-11 . R Gusts 51)

1.9 Cardin 6 (G M Habber 2) (G M Argar 8 M Habber 5-10-11 . R Gusts 51)

1.9 Cardin 6 (G M Habber 2) (G M Argar 8 M Habber 5-10-11 . R Gusts 51)

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1.9 Cardin 6 (G M Habber 5-10-11 . R Gusts 51)

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1.9 Cardin 6 (G M Habber 5-

Long handicap Popter 9-11. Fortune: Flight 9-10, Surpice Gurrer 9-10 BETTHIS 5-1 Surpler Conner, 6-1 Boston Place 8-1 Cartain, 19-1 My Tern, Shannon Shoon, 12-1 Bulton Forest Hu-Inspire John 14-1 Chips. 1996 NORMANIA 6-10-6 O Burross (16-1) USC: S Edicards 19 ran

2.15 JOHN BIGG OXO HANDICAP CHASE (£5,836: 3m) (10 nunners)

201 3.3-5F STAY LUCKY 47 (B.G) (M Buckley) in Heinderson 10-11-11 MA A Fizzgerald 112
202 U3-273 GRAINGE COURT 89 (O.F.G.S) (D.SM (Demplaca Sciences) 12-diame 5-11-2 R Waldey 117
203 (12-F) YAMRE LORID 36 (F.S) (Boyt in Red) S Chronod F-11-3 G Breatley 112
204 5P-PPP DEHARR BAY 21 (D.F.S) (B baylor) J Ghorrol (2-10-11) L A Septil205 4-13FF GAELC BUS 10 (G.S) (I Hernings) Mat S Gram 9-10-11 S Durack 112
206 4-13FF SARRY 19 (B.S.) HSt. 1 Brown) Mr. 1 Priman 6-10-1 A Magnet 127
207 PP-223 SWING DUARTET 141 (BF.D.F.G) 14 Arentage; N Takton-Daviet, 9-10-6 C Mande 125
208 4331F2 707AL JOY 18 (G.S) (Art. M Warrer) C Man 8-10-1 Mr N Ferby (7) 125
209 3-8PUD BAYLNE STAR 33 (S) M. Ballet MSt. S Badlet 9-10-1 Gary Lyons (T.S.)
210 PS5220 RIVER BAY 9 (BF.S) (Paverwood Racing) Mat S H Krityta 8-10-0 Mr. A Dempsey (3) 121

Long handicalp Force Bay 9-13 BETTING: 11-4 Galler Land 3-1 Smarty, 6 1 Total Joy, 6-1 Grange Coast, Garlet Stee, Saving Castrel Prior Edit 1998: SAUGORELLO 7-10-8 C Llewellyn (11-4 Bry N Texcor-Davies 9 ran

2.50 STEPHEN DEAN NOVICES CHASE

(£5, 160: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 junners) 

BETTING: 11-10 Testin, 5-4 No More Hessie, 12-1 Alburs, No Edgar, 14-1 Heavers Above, 33-1 Emotions 65-1 Dance Kung, Salessackin, 100-1 others. 1990: ERRESPRAY 7-11-3 P Quest (even) Not 5 Smert 4 cm

1998: ERRSPRAY 7-11-3 if Quest (sever ACC 5 Somet 4 can

No More Heastib its 2nd at 5 in Inn At The 1 op an novez chace at Concac's (2m 3) 110yd, good, previously best Grain (Februari 5) in 13-4 some rise are characteristic operations of the 10yd, good). 7 inside let in novez chace at Haydock (2m 4), soil), previously best Grain (2m 4) 110yd, good). 7 inside let in novez chace at 14 septic (2m 4), Asones pulled up in novez chace at Fellestone (2m 5), good to soil, previously best (2m 5) 10yd, good of 2m 10yd, good). Borbelino 471 13h of 21 in Country Best in novez chace at Sendown (2m 10yd, good to soil). However, Above 8t 2nd of 5 in size 8to Bolty in fooding observe at Federam (2m 4) 110yd, good to soil). However, Above 8t 2nd of 5 in size 8to Bolty in fooding observe at Federam (2m 4) 110yd, good in 50 in House 2m 4 the 11 size 3 in size 8to Bolty in fooding observe at Federam (2m 4) 110yd, good, Mr Edgar 21 4th of 13 is Specifical Algae in novice handraic chaze at Handraic Char 5 in 11 standard (2m 4) 11 standard (2m 4) 110yd, good (2m 6) 110yd, good). NO MORE HASSLE and Tiraldo annear to have this between them outs the former the safer proposition

3.25 NATIONAL LETTERBOX MARKETING JUVENILE

NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O; £7,142; 2m 110yd) (8 runners) 401 141111 DANGERIS PRECEDENT 25 (CD.G.S) (C Bracher) C Epicten 11-5 \_\_ D Gallagher [TT]
402 11 ALBRIGHTON 5 (D.F) (J Garby) F Morphy 11-2 \_\_ A Margine 30
403 F001 ZAPATEADO 19 (D.S) (M Archer 6 Mes J Brachburs) in Tection-Benes 11-2 C Blanck 7
404 P LAST CHRISTMAS 54 (V) (Souther Countes France) J Jenture 19-12 \_ M Griffins 405
405 HERRE BEAT 18 [8F] (Granuparoo Sales 6 Martebon) is Barke 19-12 M A Pitzperald 41
406 STILL WATERS (DF (Ms.S) Wood) K Bell 10-12 \_\_ J Mages 407
408 DSSOP TIE BREAK 29 (J Jucoph) J Jucoph 10-12 \_\_ J A McCartly 48
BETTING: 4-9 Dangenus Precedent, 7-2 Alprophon, 11-2 Zapateado, 14-1 Roes Beak, 50-1 others, 1996: THE PRECIAL RIPSE 11-2 J Longer (1-3 bit) M Poe 6 can

Dangerus Probiders best listeked 14 in 10-tunes dyo conce hardle at Dangerus Probiders best listeked 14 in 10-tunes dyo conce hardle at Dangerus Probiders best listeked 14 in 10-tunes dyo conce hardle at Dangerus Probiders do softy previously best kindle Demand 10 in 11-tunes dyo nowice hardle 12 thetesteam (2m 11, 0) do to softy with Zaplated best hardle 12 in 13-tunes dyo nowice hardle at Macsal-burgh (2m, good to long), previously best Reversible 31 in 13-tunes dyo nowice burdle at Macsal-burgh (2m, good to long), previously best Reversible 31 in 13-tunes dyo nowice startle at Sandonn (2m 110)(4), good to soft) with River Best (levels) 23! dit, Stopwarch 761 7th of 18 in Goodwood Caralles in 4yo nowice hardle at Leitzeler (2m, kell).

DANGERUS PRECEDENT is proving most consistent and can advertise his Tribumph Hurdle claims.

4.00 WIMBLINGTON FEN HUNTERS CHASE (£1,340: 3m) (14 numers)

\$11 31RS-P CHERRYNUT 12 (D.F.G.S) (T Barlow) Mrs S Mulifinatin (D-12-18 Mr D Barlow (5) [Tigs 512 281-PB DAWM ALERT 18P (F.G.) (A Howland Jackson) Mrs S Mulifinatin (D-12-18 Mr D Barlow (7) [Tigs 512 281-PB DAWM ALERT 18P (F.G.) (A Howland Jackson) Mrs S Hayler (D-12-7 J. Mrs S. I, Rown (7) [Tigs 513 281-PB DAWM ALERT 18P (F.G.) (A Lincord) Mr J Gengeli 6-12-7 J. Mr M Gingeli (7) [Tigs 514 281-PB DAWM ALERT 18P (S.S.) (F John 18P Long) Mrs J H. Gengeli 6-12-7 J. Mr M Gingeli (7) [Tigs 527-1-6 AMDERMART 13 (6.5) (J Commodil) J Macifel (2-12-5 \_\_\_\_\_Mr J R Genwell (7) [Tigs 527-1-6 AMDERMART 13 (6.5) (J Commodil) J Macifel (2-12-5 \_\_\_\_Mr J R Genwell (7) [Tigs 62] [Tigs 6

BETTING: 7-4 Destin D'Estrural, 3-1 frade Dispute, 5-1 Guiting Gray, 6-1 Andermatt, 12-1 Single Main, 14-1 others. 1990: FATHER RECTOR 9-12-18 M. A Costello (5-4 lavy C Stooks 6 ran

4.30 102.7 HEREWARD FM HANDICAP CHASE (£3,969: 2m 110yd) (6 numers) | BOT P1P14P SIERRA BAY 43 (CD) E5 (B. Waters) 0 Sherwood 9-11-13 \_\_\_\_\_\_ J A McCarthy 116 (SD: 2P134 - SIPSY (SEC) ZT (D, E.S.) (S Hatthard) 6 Hebbard 8-11-9 \_\_\_\_\_ R Thurnton 118 (SD: 40.4 M DORAS 41 (CD) E (S.) F Marphy 19-11-10 \_\_\_\_ Mr J P McChemara (5) 107 (SD4 U44142 ROBINS PRIDE 22 (D, E.S.) (Hochard Weeks) C Poptian 9-11-0 \_\_\_ R Farnat 106 (SD 31-211) D MY LDVE 28 (CD, E.S.) (Hochard Weeks) C Poptian 9-11-0 \_\_\_ G Bradley (T) CD (SD 31-211) D MY LDVE 28 (CD, E.S.) (BZ, ES) (BZ, E

Long handicap: Black Statement 9-10 BETTING: 2-1 8 My Love. 11-4 Occasi An Dorzs. 5-1 Robins Pride. 6-1 Secra Bay. 9-1 Gassy Geol. Black Statemer

1998: NETHERBY SAID 9-12-0 R Supple (6-1) P Beaumont 7 can

5.00 PIOLEY FEN MARES ONLY MAIDEN HURDLE

(£2,724: 2m 110yd) (22 runners) 

BETTME: 9-4 Palatel, 3-1 Newsau Cheral, 4-1 Buckshin Cameo, 7-1 Slipstream Star, 8-1 Chelworth Vi, 19-1 Val-ant Memory 12-1 Dreamington Rovers, 20-1 others 1998; KATHRYN'S PET 5-11-5 P Noven 49-4 bod Mrs M Revelov 20 cap

**COURSE SPECIALISTS** TRAINERS Mr. M Reveley 1 George M Proe C Egerton N Henderson G Habbard A Demosty M Fitzgerald P Hide J McCarthy G Bradley 9 Thomson 36 12 28 16

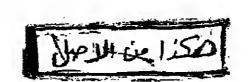
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Huntingdon: 1.45 Kerani, Ashgan, 3.25 Last Christmas, Lingfield Park: 1.25 Petemps Mission, Almohad, Red Brook Lad. 3.00 Tazkıya, 5.10 Mutaban, Hyde Park, Wincanton: 4.15 Radomsko

FREE BINOCULARS FREE POCKET SPORTS BINOCULARS FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £40 or more, today, using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards.

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TOTE HANDICAP CHASE

5/2 Moor Lane 8/1 Normarange 10/3 Reaganesque 9/1 Ambleside 11/2 Linton Rocks 16/1 Beyond Our Reach 7/1 Mr Playfuli 25/1 Bavard Dieu 7/1 Seymourswift 25/1 Garethson to 10 days of your first bet being placed.



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Ramen makes

127

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## Madrid call for Toshack to save their season

By ROB HUGHES

trol from Spain where he man-

aged Real Sociedad, for 47

days.
He moved around the Span-

ish peninsula, from Sociedad to Real Madrid for a couple of

years in his first incarnation

there, until Ramon Mendoza,

the president before Sanz, eject-

ed him in 1990. Toshack then retreated to Sociedad and had

a spell with Deportivo La Coruña before his unhappy

time on the Bosphorus with

Besiktas. His return to the

Spanish capital follows the

rejection of the job, in the short

term at least, by Fabio Cap-

JOHN TOSHACK and Kevin Toşhack, who built up Swan-Keegan, who were as close as brothers in the Liverpool sea City from the fourth division almost to the championattack of the 1970s, are still ship and then nearly bankruptplaying the same game. It is ed them in five astonishing short-term team management years, made even shorter work for long-term financial gain. of part-time nadonal team management than is contem-plated by Keegan. He was coach to Wales, by remote con-A week ago, of course,

Keegan signed a contract worth £200,000 to coach Eng-land for four matches; this morning Toshack will become the coach to Real Madrid for 95 million pesetas (about £385,000), to oversee them through the last third of the Spanish league season and, starting at home against Dynamo Kiev next Wednesday, to attempt to help them to retain

the European Cup.
Toshack yesterday was bought out of his contract with Besiktas of Istanbul for another sum approaching Ex million in compensation, and added to the pay-off to Guus Hiddink, Real's dismissed Dutch coach, we can see why Real once the most glorious club on the Continent, are now also one of the most heavily indebt-

The team was not working. I think everyone should be at fault, but it is always the coach who pays for defeat." Lorenzo Sanz, the president of Real Madrid, said. The team that Hid-dink inherited last summer was ill-balanced, the players palpably had stopped playing for Hiddink, at least in La Liga, and the record of Sanz, who has disposed of nine coaches since 1991, speaks for itself. Whoever pays, at least with their job, it is seldom the president.



## Branca is told he must see surgeon

■ MIDDLESBROUGH are insisting that Marco Branca. must visit a British orthopaedic surgeon before they will allow him to resume his career. Branca, 34, was informed by the

Middlesbrough orthopaedic specialist last October that a serious knee problem could mean the end of his career. He has since received clearance to play

professionally again by consultants in Belgium and the United States.

However, the FA Carling Premiership club have told the player that he must keep to the arrangement that both parties made last autumn. Branca agreed that he would receive a second opinion from Dr Dandy, a Cambridge surgeon recommended by the Professional Footballers' Association. Branca plans to see Dr Dandy next week.

Rodrigo Grau, 19, a Brazilian midfield player, is to join Middlesbrough on trial next month. Kevin Campbell, the former Arsenal and Nottingham Forest striker.

yesterday expressed his

## **FOOTBALL**

determination to leave Trabzonspor, after what he describes as racist insults from the Turkish club's chairman. Mehmet Ali Yilmaz told Turkish television over the weekend that Campbell's performance at the club had been a disappointment.

"We bought a cannibal who calls himself a striker," he said, describing the striker as "discoloured". Campbell retorted: "The chairman's statement is the greatest insult in my life. Nothing, no apology, can heal the injury."

Danny Wilson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, has made a £2.5 million offer for Michael Mols, the Utrecht and Holland striker. Dutch clubs Feyenoord, Ajax and PSV Eindhoven are also interested, as are Everton and Der-

by County. m Forest are to give a trial to Hector Louis Gordano, an Argentinian right back who plays for

ello. The Italian had built this Real side, and then departed by mutual consent because, among other things, he resist-ed requests to play Fernando Sanz, the president's son, in

The high quality that Capel-lo left behind was harnessed by Jupp Heynckes, the German, to capture the European Cup for Real for the first time three decades, whereupon Heynckes and Sanz predict-ably had had enough of one another. Enter Hiddink, who guided Holland to fourth place in the World Cup last summer but whose co-operative style of management, relying too much, it seems, on the self-motivation of players, began to fall apart this year. Hiddink did manage to win the World Club Cup with Madrid in Tokyo, though his side lost the European Super Cup to Chelsea, courtesy of Gian-franco Zola's magnificent goal in Monaco last August.

Meanwhile, in the cauldron of Madrid football, Atlético Madrid, whose president, Jésus Gil y Gil, eats coaches for breakfast, sacked Arrigo Sacchi a week ago. That weekend Real surrendered meekly, 3-0, in Barcelona.

Sanz briefly attempted to defend his coach, but after another defeat, this time at home to Athletic Bilbao, leaving them sixth in the league. nothing could spare Hiddink. The task facing Toshack is similar to that facing Keegan with England: to breathe fire and self-belief into players who, for whatever reason, were not performing to their standards. The Real Madrid problems are that the team is imbalanced - they particularly lack right-sided attacking players, hence the £14 million five-year contract offered to

Steve McManaman.

He, too, hails from Liverpool, but his path may not
cross Toshack's. It is known that Sanz really covets Capello, who has a villa in Majorca, and had dinner with Sanz last weekend.

Capello indicated that a return to Estadio Bernabeu is attractive to him, but not before the summer. In that time. if John Toshack wins all before him, who knows if Capello's summer will ever come? ☐ Ronaldo resumed full training with Internazionale yesterday but when the Brazilian will resume playing remains uncertain. The striker, who played his last Serie A match in mid-January, will definitely miss the Italian league game against Juventus on Saturday and may also miss the European Cup quarter-final first-lee match against Manchester

"It's too early to make final plans about Ronaldo's return." Mircea Lucescu, the Inter coach, said. "He enjoyed training with the ball today. Ronaldo, 22, kicked the ball with ease after five weeks of special training on a sand pitch. He has been suffering from tendinitis in both knees.

United next Wednesday.



Record row by charitable Leander

A TEAM of ten Leander members, with a 9.15am start, broke the world 100,000 metre indoor rowing record by 18min 42sec at the River and Rowing Museum at Henley yesterday. Their overall time was 4hr 44min 32sec.

The Leander contingent had seven internationals, including Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell, part of the world champion coxless fours, but their crew-mate, Steve Redgrave, is still recovering from the and could

only watch.
Jürgen Grobler, their coach, had his

men doing one minute stints for the first four hours. The slick change-overs on the indoor rowing machine were matched by the athletes' strength and, after 80,000 metres, Leander were 13 minutes inside the record. At his point, Grobler switched the changeovers to half-minute intervals to increase speed and the machine's 500 metre splits were recording under

"Where else is a machine going to

get that sort of punishment?" a repre-

sentative of Concept II, the makers, commented. As the museum filled with spectators at lunchtime, and with just 2,200 metres to go, the television monitors went blank. Apparently someone in the crowd had stepped on a cable. The computer was still func-tioning, though, and both Grobler and the crowd arged on the "in the dark" athletes for the expected last seven minutes, though, to be safe without visual timing, they did eight, covering an extra 1,000 metres. The Leander team's efforts raised £5,736 for Comic Relief, £5,000 from the Leander Club and £736 from Lombard, who spon-

sored Redgrave and Pinsent The Leander team were Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell, Ed Coode and Richard Hamilton (Great Britain eight). Steve Williams and Fred Scarlett (GB coxless pair), Luka Grubor (GB coxed four), and non-internationals Dave Bushnell, Pete Gardner and Kingsley Poole.

**RUGBY LEAGUE** 

#### RFL is primed for tri-nations series

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE tri-nations series scheduled to take place in Australia and New Zealand next autumn is not in jeopardy, Neil Tunnicliffe, the Rugby Football League (RFL) chief executive, said yesterday after speculation that Great Britain could be excluded.

In response to a suggestion that New Zealand would prefer a three-match series against Australia on cost grounds. Tunnicliffe said: Gerald Ryan [the New Zealand Rugby League chairmanl is reported as saying that he would like to see a business plan for the planned trinations. We have found that difficult to square with the fact that we received our copy of

system of green and red lights

Nick Clarke this

week received the

stopped play. Clarke explains: "I was due to

officiate at a Wednesday

Mid-morning I had a call

Clarke continues: "The

RAF were due to fly down

weathermen had banned the

because, by the time the team

weather conditions would not

Beware big foot

Does Rich Williams have the

cannot find boots big enough

to fit him off the shelf. Rich

was in the Bristol Junior

Combination development

pre-match action before the

game between England and

Scotland at Twickenham last

side that provided the

from Lossiemouth in

Scotland to RAF Brize

Norton, However, RAF

plane from taking off

had flown back to their

northern base that night

have allowed them to land

safely. So plane stopped

biggest teenage feet in

England? The 15-year-old

wears size 17 shoes and

play.

from Scottish saying the

covered? No."

the plan last Wednesday. "As far as the RFL is concerned, the International Rugby League Federation programme for 1999 has been agreed and confirmed." Technical difficulties have been resolved to allow the introduction of a cricket-style for try-scoring decisions in the televised Silk Cut Challenge Cup fifth-round tie between Leeds Rhinos and St Heiens on Saturday.

Leeds have restored Martin Masella to the front row in place of Barrie McDermott. who is suspended after being sent off in the fourth-round defeat of Wigan Warriors. Having omitted Anthony Sullivan. who played rugby union for Wales A last week, Ellery Hanley, the St Helens coach, is set to spring another surprise by leaving Kevin Iro, the club's high-profile signing from Auckland, on the bench.

Hull Sharks have over-turned their decision to end the two-year contract of Michael Smith, their New Zealand forward, after one appearance because of a breach of club discipline. Hull have fined Smith £5,000, with half suspended, and placed him on three months' probation, at the suggestion of Abi Ekoku, the Professional Players' Association chairman.

BOWLS

#### Difficult start for **Ashby**

CAROL ASHBY, the defending champion, but a relative newcomer to the upper echeions of the women's game, faces a tough challenge in the first round of the national indoor singles championship at the Isca Centre, Exeter, this morning (David Rhys Jones writes). She takes on Sharon Rickman, of King George Field, who has played for

England for 12 years, Ashby, 31, who is a member of the Professional Bowls Association, reached the final of the women's world indoor singles championship last April and has been rewarded with a place in the England side for the home international se-

ries in Belfast pext month. The 31-year-old secretary from Eastbourne is one of ten internationals in the field of 16. She has also qualified in the pairs and junior singles events. Jayne Roylance, the 1993 champion from North Walsham, Norfolk, meets Rene Barber, of Paddington, in the first round.

BOXING

## **Confident Hamed** planning ahead

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

NASEEM HAMED has already picked his next opponent after Paul Ingle, whom he meets at Manchester on April 10. The World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion has lined up Vuyani Bungu, of South Africa, the International Boxing Federation super-bantamweight champion, for a bout to be staged in the United States, the Middle East or South Africa in July or August. Hamed's brother, Riath,

now the boxer's manager, said yesterday that all that remained was to complete the promotional details with Bungu's manager, Rodney Burman. "The match is perfect," Riath said. Bungu is very credible. He's a world champion who is looking for a crack at the real big time and Naz fancies the fight. Also Bungu is, like Naz, a Home Box Office [HBO] fighter. As he is under the same umbrella, it's easier dealing with him than

place for Naz, for the time zone is similar to Britain. Fighting on another continent could give us a chance to make a whole new extravaganza."

British boxing followers will be able to assess Bungu if he appears on the undercard of the Hamed-Ingle bill. Bungu, who has made 13 defences of his title, said that he would be moving up to featherweight when the deal is signed with Hamed. "I'm glad to get the chance to fight Naseem," Bungu said. "I've been looking forward to it for a year. It'll be the fight of my life."

Burman launched a new company, Golden Fists, yesterday to promote South African and British boxers in Great Britain. The company, which is backed by big institutions in South Africa, will hold its first show at Aston Villa Leisure Centre on April I. It will feature two world championships, the British lightweight championship and Jane Couch in an eight-rounder against a German opponent.

**RUGBY UNION** 

## Dempsey returns at the expense of Woods

GIRVAN DEMPSEY, the wing who was forced to miss Ireland's Five Nations Championship victory over Wales at Wembley last Saturday because of a hip injury, returns to the Irish squad to play England at Lansdowne Road on March 6. He does so at the expense of Niall Woods.

The return of Dempsey is consistent with the selection policy of Warren Gatland, the coach, but he will have made the change with an easier conscience after David Humphreys' kicking display against Wales, which earned him 19 points. Woods provided back-up to Humphreys, but now finds himself part of a much-changed A XV that will play England on March 5.

France have made two changes to their squad, for the game against Wales on March 6, from the one that narrowly defeated Ireland in their opening Five Nations Championfixture. They have brought in David Auradou. the Stade Français lock, and Xavier Garbajosa, from Toulouse, who can play on the wing or at full back.

Players from Ireland and Australia will complete the

BY DAVID HANDS AND MARK SOUSTER

Barbarians squad for a new fixture at the end of the season, on May 23, which will be part of a gala day at Twickenham. The Barbarians have taken over the Sanyo Cup fixture in which, for the past three years, a world XV coached by Bob Dwyer has played the English league champions. England's squad, which will

travel to Australia for a World



Dempsey: recovered

Cup training camp later in the week, assembles on the same day, but first-division clubs have agreed that all their players will be available.

Richmond and Harlequins whose failure to agree the date of their Premiership fixture last November cost Richmond two league points, must play on May 3. Both clubs have Anglo-Welsh fixtures 48 hours earlier, which will have influenced the decision of an independent commission established by English

Rugby Partnership. The Scottish Rugby Union is expected to issue a statement today regarding the Martin Johnson stamping affair at Twickenham on Saturday. Last night the union's disciplinary committee discussed the incident involving John Leslie for which Johnson received a vellow card.

IRELAND SOLIAD: Becker C O Shea, G Dempsey, J Bishop, K Meiggs, J Bell, R Henderson, O Humphreys, E Bavedo, C McGurness, C Scaly, Fervands: P Clonessy, Pwidace J Flandamick, K Wood R Nesdale, P Johns, J Handson, M Galmey, E Miller, V Costello, D O'Curmesgan, A Water

Ward.
FRANCE SCHAD: Backs: O Aucagne
FRANCE SCHAD: Backs: O Aucagne
Bernst-Sales. P. Carbon feau.,
Cartagnède. F. Comba. R. Courfee
Gorberos. C. Lussect. T. Lombard.
Piterrack. Forwards: O Autadou. P. Berne
ton, O Brouzel, C. Caldano, M. Dal Maso, I
Banez. T. Lowerbond., O Magne. S. Macones.
T. O Pelous, M. Royraud. F. Tournaire



Saturday. Not surprisingly. his boots have to be specially

Peace talks

At the Irish Embassy on Friday night there was a party to mark the centenary of London Irish. Amid the hubbub came an instructive meeting between Syd Millar. one of Ireland's International Board representatives, and Nigel Wray, the owner of

Millar greeted Wray with his long held view that "world rugby will not allow a handful of English clubs to run the game". Wray assured him that was far from the case, and the two me happily exchanged telephone numbers. How appropriate if some kind of peace process should have broken our under the Irish flag.

#### Married bliss

Patrick Sebastien was a big man in France's entertainment business - a younger version of Terry Wogan my man on the Continent tells me - and clearly retains a certain style. Now president of Brive. Sebastien married his bride. Natalie, on the pitch at before the start of the first

division match against Toulouse before 18,000 witnesses. Brive won the game 25-21.

Funny old game There were red faces at the traditional committees dinner at the Selfridge Hotel in London on Friday night before the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham. In what was meant to be a tongue-in-cheek reference to England's temporary expulsion from the Five Nations, Jeff Addison, junior vice-president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU),

to go into the fixture pool for The humour was not widely appreciated. That was not the only friction. Some English officials took

thanked Allan Hosie, the

Nations Committee, for

"allowing the game in go

Scottish chairman of the Five

ahead. At least we don't have

exception to what they felt were pointed and disparaging remarks in a speech made by Derek Brown, president of the Scottish Rugby Union. Sounds like a fun evening was had by all.

other opponents.

Scott turns tutor Scott Quinnell went back to school on Tuesday to help launch a three-year rugby development project in West Wales. Quinnell returned to the Five Road Primary School just outside Llanelli. where he was taught, and where his daughter, Samantha, is now a pupil. II

is all part of the rugby in the

Quinnell: inspiration

pioneered by the club and sponsored by McDonalds with the help of Sportsmatch. Quinnell said: "If we can inspire youngsters to play the game then great"

Graham reverse Graham Cattermole has suffered another setback in his attempts to get onto the Rugby Football Union management board. At an RFU council meeting last week a proposal was made that Cattermole should be elected on to the board - but he received only 16 votes, not

nearly enough for him to get a seat Naked truth It appears that the rogby club's "gentleman's night"

has gone the way of so many of the game's traditions. Centaur, the male dance troupe from Swansea, have torn Newport rugby club off a strip after their near sell-out show planned for this Friday was cancelled. Newport, it transpires, did not want the Full Monty. "We thought they didn't go all the way," Peter Banner, commercial director for the

club, said. "We have a 100-year tradition and did not want that destroyed."

**SNOOKER** 

Taylor may

take cue

to leave

centre stage

at Derby

BY PHIL YATES DENNIS TAYLOR, respons-

ible for snooker's best remembered moment when he defeated Steve Davis 18-17 on the black in the final of the 1985 world championship.

could be making his last televised appearance as a tourna-ment player today.

Taylor, who turned 50 last

month, was selected - with Davis, Jimmy White and Mar-

co Fu — as one of the four sponsor's wild-card invitees

for the 12-man Liverpool Victo-

ria Charity Challenge at the Assembly Rooms in Derby. Having announced his inten-tion to retire from competition

at the end of the season, Taylor's playing swansong in front of the cameras will come either at Derby or, if he can ne-

gotiate three world championship qualifying rounds, at the

## German's withdrawal from Guardian Direct Cup disappoints paying public

## Battersea blow as Becker drops out

By Julian Muscat, tennis correspondent

THE ONLY souls unper-turbed by Boris Becker's frail health are the tennis tournament directors, who continue to dispense him wild cards despite his regular failure to show. The British public yesterday became the latest paying casualties of Becker's physical complaints when the German withdrew from the Guardian Direct Cup in Bat-

Becker had long since departed the tournament site when his exit was announced. The man was suffering from a stomach viral infection, the same complaint that Jan Michael Gambill took with him to the court when beaten by Davide Sanguinetti, of Italy, in straight sets yesterday.

Becker's long and undigni-fied slide towards retirement

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thus continues in familiar vein. Much more of this and the Howard Hughes of tennis may not be remembered with the affection generated by three Wimbledon titles and an adoring German public.

Tournament directors hang on Becker's every promise be-cause he sells tickets. "There's no question, he is a draw to the event," Patricio Apey, the tournament joint-director at Battersea, said. "It is disappointing to say the least. He is a big

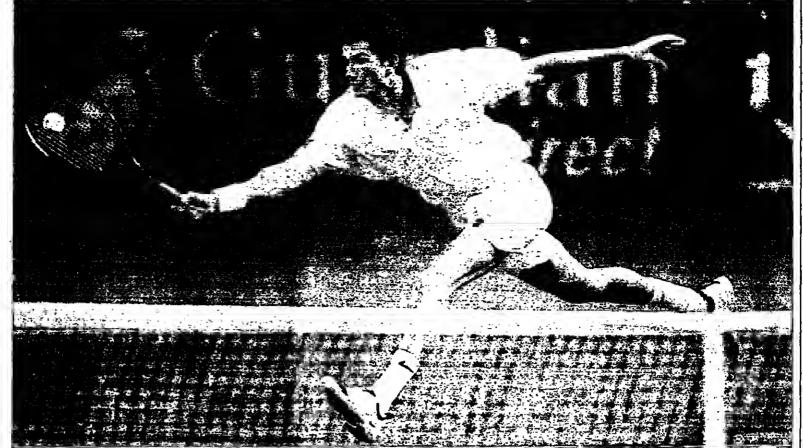
part of recent tennis history. but what can you do? A former world No 1, Beck-er fulfilled his doubles commitments on Tuesday evening, when, in tandem with Goran

Ivanisevic, the combination lost in three demanding sets.
"I was really looking forward
to offering the public in London, one of my favourite ones,
a good march," Becker said in a statement before departing. Becker has scaled down his appearances of late. He has

stayed competitive enough to represent his country at doubles in Davis Cup ties. However, Carl-Uwe Steeb, Germany's Davis Cup captain, yesterday voiced doubts in a press conference in Frankfurt that Becker would maintain his alliance with David Prinosil for

the tie with Russia in April. Becker's replacement here, as a lucky loser from the qualifying competition, is Rainer Schuttler, his German compatriot, who rapidly retraced his steps from the airport to play Karol Kucera last night. Schuttler was just a couple of strides from clearing immigration when he received his summons.

From a competitive perspective, Schuttler substituting for Becker considerably strengthens the field at this £500,000



Full streach: Richard Krajicek, of Holland, on his way to a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Nicolas Kiefer, of Germany, at Battersea yesterday. Photograph: Alex Livesey

event Whereas Becker has lost his only match this year. Schuttler beat Tim Henman in the final in Doha. He also ran the Briton close at this venue 12 months ago before Henman prevailed 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

For all his evident frailoes, Becker remains a huge draw for the paying public. His name adorns billboards at the entrance to Battersea Park, just as it featured prominently in all advance publicity for this tournament. Becker withdrew just before the draw in Doha, the opening event this year, citing security problems around Iraq. He then lost to Jonas Bjorkman in the first round in Dubai before withdrawing from Rotterdam last

week, this time with an injured ankie. His regular absence from Rotterdam prompt-ed Vim Buitedijk, the tourna-ment director, to declare that

enough was enough. Gambill, by contrast, fulfilled his engagement yester-

day before looking ahead to the United States Davis Cup tie with Great Britain in April. Unlike Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang. ris compatriots. Gambill said that he could never envisage making himself unavailable

Logica 99; withthey with

**BECKER'S WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS** 

Dobe Bills withdraw before second-round match with a puller Scottsdate 98: withors before playing a match with an injured back.
Lipton \$80 withdraw before

playing a metch with influenza. Dollar 99: withdrew before event ching security problems

for selection, whatever the circumstances. That trio's absence from the United States' semi-final line-up against Italy last year prompted severe criocism of the team by the local media.

"I get sick of hearing about the B-team," Gambill said. "The team we pick is the Ateam, whoever ends up playing." He also dismissed as "ridiculous" the idea that world ranking points should be assigned to Davis Cup rubbers. "It would be like giving out money instead of gold medals at the Olympics." he said. "Players play because they love the game and want to Gambill, 21, is plainly itch-

ing to be chosen for the rie in Birmingham. "I hope the at-mosphere is hosole," he said. That is the advantage of a home rie. It doesn't maoer if the crowd is for me or against me. It is just very exciring to play in simulations like that."

Goran Ivanisevic, who can create a hosole atmosphere all on his own, was the Battersea tournament's first seed to fall. The Croat, seeded No 7, became increasingly fractious as he succumbed to the withering groundstrokes of Hicham Arazi, of Morocco, Arazi tri-umphed 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 and next faces the winner of the match between Tim Henman and Jan Kroslak, who were due to play last night

Crucible in April. The winner in Derby will earn £100,000 for his nominated charity and £30,000 himself. Taylor, who last figured in a final when he unexpectedly battled through to the climax of the inaugural Char-ity Challenge in 1995, will rep-resent the Nadonal Carers Association. He meets Alan McManus for the right to pro-

> tion to Ronnie D'Sullivan. John Higgins, the fille-holder, awaits Peter Ebdon or Davis in the quarter-finals, while Stephen Hendry, the winner in 1995 and 1997, will play John Parrott or Jimmy White in the quarter-finals.

vide the quarter-final opposi-

Davis, White, Stephen Lee, who won the Grand Prix in October, and, most surpris-ingly. Michael Judge have been awarded wild cards for the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare, at the end of March.

Stuart Bingham, from Basildon, won the third of the season's four UK Tour events in Swindon yesterday. Bing-ham, who compiled a maximum break in the qualifying phase, beat Matthew Couch, of Scunthorpe, 6-1 in the final.



Taylor: retiring

## Ramesh makes his mark

COLOMBO (first day of five; Sri Lanka won toss): India have scored 351 for three wick-ets against Sri Lanka

SADAGOPAN struck his maiden Test century and Rahul Dravid also scored a hundred as India enjoyed a profitable opening day against Sri Lanka in their Asian Test Championship match in Colombo.

Ramesh, who hit 143, shared a second-wicket stand of 232 with Dravid, who made 107, after Ramesh's opening partner, Vangipurappu Laxman, had been dismissed for edge into the slips was juggled among the fielders before being grasped by Aravinda de Silva to give Ruchira Perera a wicket on his Test debut.

Ramesh, who is playing in his fourth Test, hit 18 fours durCHEST ing an immings which lasted

for 317 minutes and Dravid's hundred included 12 fours. Their partnership was the best for India's second wicket against Sri Lanka, surpassing Gavaskar and Dilip Veng-sarkar in the inaugural Test between the countries in Madras in 1982.

That Sri Lanka had to endure such a hard day in the field was their own fault because Ranatunga, encouraged by a tinge of green in the pitch, fielding became sloppy as it became obvious that conditions were, in fact, ideal for batting. The second-wicket stand

ended when Ramesh, who had hit Perera for three fours in one over soon after passing his

century, lifted a drive against Jayawardene and was caught by Rananinga at short extra

The Sri Lanka captain also

held a catch in the gully to send back Dravid off the bowling of Hathurusinghe.
Ominously for Sri Lanka,
Tendulkar also looks set for a big score after enlivening the final hour with some glorious strokes as he moved to 53 not

out, the new ball, taken at 289 for three serving only to increase the scoring rate. Ashish Nehra, a fast-medium bowler, was given his Test

debut by India, who were beat-Calcutta last week in the match which opened the championship. Sri Lanka will meet Pakistan in Lahore in a match starting on March 4, and the final will be played in Dhaka eight days later.

#### Warne got off lightly

SHANE WARNE and Mark Wangh, the Australia players. should have been suspended and not just fined, because of their involvement with an Indian bookmaker, the report of the official inquiry stated yes-

The report also castigated the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) for failing to publicise the fines on the players, who admitted receiving money for match and weather reports four years ago.

However, the two-month investigation by a senior lawyer, commissioned by the ACB. found no evidence of matchfixing.

The lawyer ruled out further charges against the pair. who are on tour in the West Indies, because the offences occurred in 1995.

#### England's missed chance just the two matches, my FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS

ALI BACHER, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UC8), revealed yesterday that his country would have been willing to host a full tour of the England A team this winter, and accepted all local expendi-ture, but his board was never asked by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The national team is away so the A team players are in the country and they would all be available to play against England," Bacher said. "Had they (the ECB) come back to us for a six-week tour in February/March, there is no reason ves. But they never came back

DO US. "They phoned me to say that they were going to Zimbabwe as a fait accompli. They just asked us if they could then have a couple of games in IN JOHANNESBURG

South Africa at the end of the tour. If England want a full A tour here, we would be happy to host them and pay for it." When the itinerary of the tour was finalised, the ECB felt it necessary to include a two-week leg in South Africa.

with two first-class matches, after the six-week stay in Zimbabwe, and agreed to pay most of the costs, expenses usually undertaken by the host nation's board. Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the ECB, said during a

A tours cost the board an estimated £350,000 a year. Only match expenses, however, are being funded by the UCB. "It would have cost us R250,000 (about £28.000) and with no gate or television income for

board could not justify it." Bacher said. "At the end of the day we were helping Eng-land."

Cricketing reasons alone would have been enough to favour South Africa as the principal venue for the A tour. with Zimbabwe being visited for a shorter, additional leg. The rains that ruined the first half of the stay in Zimbabwe added further irony to Bacher's comments.

The first of England A's matches here begins today, against Gauteng at the Wanderers ground, Mal Loye, the having played in all but the second warm-up match of the tour in Harare, has been rested and Steve Harmison is being saved for the five-day match against the President's XI next week.

CRICKET Asian Test championship Sri Lanka v India

COLOMBO (first day of five, Sn Lanka wor toss) India have scored 351 for three wickets against Sri Lanka 

TOUR MATCHES: Antigue (second day of three): Australians 156 (G.S. Blewet 52, R. Hruds 4-93) and 176-3; West indies Board XISS (A.C. Dale 7-24). Hernitton (final day of three): South Amorans 407-4 disc and 200-5 dec; Northern Districts 308-8 dec and 120-3 March drawn

BASKETBALL

MEN: First division: Caus bpd Downing, Jesus bpd Churchilt Crinst's bpd Trinsty Halt Emmanuel bpd Pembroke Robinson bpd Queens': Care bpd Girton, Sakwin over bpd LMBC II Third division: CCAT bpd Clare II, Emmanuel II bpd Fitzwiffern II. Wolfen bpd Peterhouse II. Sekwin II bpd Megdelene II: Robinson II bpd 1st and 3rd Trinsty III, Griton II bpd Downing III, Jesus III bpd Hughels Hell, Dawin bpd Corpus Critish III. Fourth division: Queens' III bpd Clare

MATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MBA): Woch-ington 60 Masmi 96. Detroit 106 Toronto 80. New York 82 New Jersey 74, Houston 98. Seattle 86. Chazago 89 Milwestee 90. Dal-les 89 Atlanta 85, Los Angeles Cippors 89. Colden 52te 94, Vancouver 93 Los Angeles Laiors 83.

CAMBRIDGE LENT RACES

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## FOR THE RECORD

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FOOTBALL

Tuesday's lete results

TUESCARY'S BETTE TESTARTS
FA CUP: Fifth round: Arsenal 2 Shoff Utd 1
NATIONWEDE LEAGUE: Second divialors: Bristol Rovers 0 Galfingham 1, Futham
8 Reading 1; Luton 0 Notis County 1, Northampion 0 Walsal 1, Praston 5 Lincoln Cry
0, Thand division: Phymouth 2 Chester 0.
Swonces 1 Menefold 0
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northemn section, quarter-finals Pochdale 2 Heiday 1 (see, 1-1 after 90mm; Rochdale wn on
polden goal).

going goal.

NATIONYIBE CONFERENCE Doncaster
2 Tellord 1, Hayes 2 Stevenege 2. Kingdoniand 3 Southport 1
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Arrofice 0.5 Meran 3 Third division: Abort 1
Condentseath 1, Stenhousemut 3 Montrose 1.

ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY:
Quarter-Rineler Famborough 4 Wohung 3,
Herelord 2 Morecombe 3 (act 2.2 after
90mm)
UNBOOND LEAGUE: Premier division:
Runcom 2 Bamber Bridge 2, Erriey 1 Frickley 1 First division: Doylscen 3 Great Harwood 0. Flodin 2 Astron United 0
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Andove 3 Winny 1, Brackiny 0 Havari end Wasterbowie 2, Cramperine 2 Fishand 2 Merand division: Bedworth
0 Biskettell 1: Covedon 2 Newport 4FC 1.
Hindley 5 Moor Grean 1 Septhern division: Andove 3 Winny 1; Brackiny 0 Havari end Wasterbowie 2, Cramperine 2 Fishand 1, Enth and Belvedge 0 Chelmston 6.

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RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: BeBoston 2

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Be-

Leegue Capt Foliath rounds Struthinge 0
Boston 2
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstole 2 Gravesend and Northteel 2, Duwich 2 St Albars 2. Hempton 0 Aylesbury 0.
Sution Linded 5 Wallen and Hersham 0
First division: Berkhamssed 1 Hildan 2,
Carney Island 3 Yeading 1. Oxford Cay 2
Notecey 1, Weadstone 4 Worthing 1: Writeissis 1 Greys 0. Second division: Barking 1
Hungariord 0. Bedford Town 4 Weiningham 1, Hertland 0 Histow 2: Martow 2 Northwood 0, Whenhoe 1 Thame 3 Third division: Cheshurd 2 Wingate and Finchley 2.
Croydon 0 Aveley 0. Dorlang 2 Ware 5.
Egham 1 East Thurnols 1: Homethurch 3 Epsom and Ewell 0: Tibouy 0 Ford Utd 1
RISSH LEAGUE: Coss-Colle cell: Guarten-Shart Carnet 2 Ards 1
BANKS\*S BRIEWERY LEAGUE: Premier
division: Bandon 4 Star 0, Westell Wood 1

division: Bandon 4 Star Q, Walsoll Wood 1 Darleston 2; Wolverhampton Casuals 0 Tw-Derisston 2: Wockenampen Casuas: 0 I Mdels 2.

BASS INISH CUP: Stein round:Lurgen
Cate 0 Portedown 3

SOUTHERN AUMIDR FLOODLIT CUP:
First round: Brighton 4 Gänghern 2

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES
LEAGUE Premier division: Cobram 1

Redort 1: Cove 0 Reading 4: Famham 0
Chipshad 1: Godairnag and Curitions 0

Ach 0: Walton Casuals 1 Merstram 0

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUEPremier division: Amout 4 Liversedge 0

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE:
First styristors Glossop North End 2 lewcasts Town 3. Plassot Cables 2. Boots 2.
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LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: South
Shietic 2 Conseln 1.
ENSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: South
Shietic 2 Conseln 1.
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on 2 Cascion 1.
SEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First divisione AFC Newbury 5 Fareham 1, Bernston
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League Cup: Second round, second

HOCKEY

PRISTANTIONAL MATCH (in Lance)
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SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scotish Eagles 5 Cartift Dewis 4 (OT) NATIONAL LEAGUE (NRL): Bosson 5 Ottows 2. Nashville 3 Dalas 4 Colorado 4 Van-couver 4 (OT)

NETBALL INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England 57 South Airca 54 (as NEN Avena, Manchester) RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier divisions Neeth 20 Ebbw Vale 22.

### **FOOTBALL**

Not-off 7:30 unless timed
RYMAN LEAGUE: Second divisions Ban-stead v Met Posce Vandanel Trophy: Third round: Herbord v Windsor and Eton (7:45), Martin v Egnam (7:45): Thame Util v Southell (7:45) V Souther (7.45) AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Crystal Pelace v loswich. PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Becond division Huddenstield y North County (7 0) Huddersield v Nors County (\*) OF FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundes v Shartrock (7.45) MINERYA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkmyside v SI Margaresbury (7.45). Hartypy v Potters Bar Town (7.45). Wellyin Garden v Beacons-ted Sycob (7.45).

OTHER SPORT HOCKEY, Men's metches: Metrado Preo-den's XI y Englan Universes (all Bernary-hem Div. 7.30), England Universe (var-bridge University (af Southgate, 2.30) IDE HOCKEY) Selsonds Bisperleague: Lon-don Knights y Bratinels Bises (7.0) Notrop-hem Panthers y Manchester Storm (7.30)

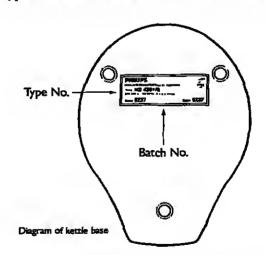
BATTERSEA PARK: Guardian Direct Cup: Singles: First round: Y Naternion (Faces to M Gussinsson (Swe) 6-2-3-6-5-3 G Rusedos (SS) to G Pozza (til 5-2-6-1 O Sangumen (th bit J M Gambi) (US) 6-1-6-1 

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**POOLS DIVIDENDS** 

## **Philips** Safety Recall

Philips Jug Kettles Type Numbers. HD 4388, HD 4389, HD 4390, HD 439L



Our ongoing quality assurance programme has identified a possible fault in the above ranges of jug kettles, which might develop after prolonged use and could cause them to malfunction and become unsafe.

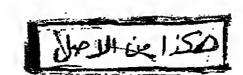
IMPORTANT: Please identify if you have one of the kettles shown above and then check the type and batch numbers, which can be found on the base of the kettle. If the type number matches the list above and the four figure batch number starts with the numbers 92 or 93 please stop using the kettle immediately and call the freephone number below. Please have your kettle by you when you phone because we will need to confirm the details before we advise you further.

0800 917 1061

The helptine is open from 8am - 8pm No other Philips kettle is affected by this recall. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



**PHILIPS** 





Lunatic fringe: athletes perform handsprings and cartwheels during the 100 metres gymnastic dash, but will it catch on as an Olympic Games event?

# Eccentric new sports that may have fringe benefits



ny spectator who is feeling jaded at the same old events spinning round on the sporting calendar should keep an eye on a strange jamboree to be staged in New Zealand a week before the Olympic Games in Sydney next year.

It is not often that you can be in at the birth of new sports, or witness new events at existing sports meetings. Just occasionally, after some ferocious or eccentric lobbying, beach vollcyball, synchronised swimming or ballmom dancing will creep into a games. But such "recreations" already exist and are merely seeking acceptance within the establishment of

By contrast, in New Zealand, a remarkable man with the unlikely name of Burton Silver is toying with a completely new concept of "innovative sports and games" that will have most traditionalists spluttering with outrage. He wants to introduce the world to the delights of formation running, assisted high jumping and hurdling on bicycles. Silver's dream is to hold a regular international sporting festival, staged around the ome of conventional world sporting events, to be known as the Fringe Games. His inaugural games, which he says will be televised, will take place in the QEII Park in Christchurch,

from September 8-11, 2000. These are not silly games. they will be highly competi-tive." Silver said. "There is a hunger for new and exciting events. People are going to be able to watch formation running, the 100 metres slatom and mechanized running for the first time, plus a host of other sports that have never been seen before."

shrew-mouse."



Formation running, in which athletes run as a team joined by elastic, and the assisted high jump, feature at the Fringe Games

Lateral - or sideways action. Other events include a running, synchronized run- unicycle 100 metres and synring with the teams harnessed chronised cycling. cords, high jumps where a Games are based on the belief partner helps to heave you that the creation of the new in over the bar, long jumps in sport is as important as the which hand-held weights are celebration of the old - that used to extend distance, a gym-

ing a series of cartwheels and hand-springs, backwards running, and a freestyle ball throw are some of the bizarre

experimenting with sport challenges human ingenuity and reinvigorates the spirit.

that athletes are constrained by traditional rules." he said. There are ways of jumping higher or cycling faster. The Fringe Games will allow us to celebrate our true potencial by removing such constraints and we confidently expect to see many records set at these

Cycling events will be unrestricted by rules covering the construction of bikes, and innovarious such as the outlawed streamlined hike built by the Graeme Obree, the Scotosh rider, will be welcomed.

nastic 100 metres sprint involv-

"Many people don't realise

events planned by Silver.

A 400 metres hurdles race, in which cyclists will have to jump ten hurdles of varying height, promises plenty of

WORD-WATCHING

(b) An interpreter. A corruption of the Old French Latinier a Lati-

(a) Maize-starch prepared for use as food. Arbitrarily from

(b) The shrew-mouse. Late Latin borrowed from the Greek.

(a) A strip or fillet hanging from a head-dress or garment. Connected with *label*. In Heraldry, one of the dependent points of a

label. "At his cappe hand certaine Lambeaux much like unto a

1 ... Nf3+! 2 gxf3 Qh3 and the white position collapses due to the

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

The sacred animal of Buto is said to have been the mygale or

emisers and codifiers of sport rather than inventors. But there is no logical rea-There is great value in celebrating tradition, and long son why great sports should not grow from an idea, an may it continue. But that shoul-

'These are not silly games and they will be highly competitive'

dn't stop us from creating new tradioons or changing exisony ones." Coincidentally, Silver believes that there are unlikely to be any problems with drugs in his games. "Our events will encourage a greater concentration on technique, rather than the current obsession with the

development of physique." You will probably be able to get a bet on whether the man is simply mad or a great sport-ing visionary, and whether his games will ever take off. It is invenove spark or an experiment. No one, for instance, would today dismiss basket-ball as a fringe sport. But when it first appeared it would have been readily recognised by Silver as fit for inclusion in

now well over a century since

we saw his like. Then a self-

confident generation of Victori-

shape the sports we have enjoyed ever since. Their raw ma-

terial was largely games with long pedigrees that began in

ancient times. They were mod-

his Fringe Games. Basketball was the result of an assignment posed by a physical education teacher in December 1891 at a YMCA training college in Springfield. Massachusetts. A Canadian student, James Naismith, rose

though there was no such footrace in ancient Greece. It was, of course, the marathon - surely an event that even Burton Silver would consider to be way beyond the fringe.

to the challenge of devising an

active indoor winter game that

would prove attractive to

rudimentary set of rules, had a

janitor nail up peach baskets

along the railing at each end of the gym, and invited his fellow

students to toss a ball into the

baskets. The invented fringe

sport caught on immediately.

event, considered at the time to

be outrageously beyond the

bounds of normal sporting ac-

tivity, has since become one of

In June 1894 Michel Breat, a

classical philologist, wrote to

his friend and fellow French-

man, Baron Pierre de Couber-

tin, suggesting a new race for his 1896 Athens Olympics.

Breal, trying to establish a con-

nection to the ancient Greek

games, proposed an impossi-

bly long endurance run of 40

kilometres or more, even

the most popular mass-partici-

pation sports in the world.

An even crazier idea for an

JOHN BRYANT



SQUASH

### Martin seals Duffield's fate

AN EXTRAORDINARY resurgence by Jane Martin from the edge of deleat to Cassandra Jackman may have put TSM Duffield out of the play-offs for the SRA National League championship next month. Martin, of UNW Northumberland, beat Jackman, the British champion. 8-10, 3-9, 9-7.

9-7. 9-1 in a 77-minute fifth-string rubber. Martin, 26, who stands ten places behind Jackman at No 14 in the world rankings. was trounced for just six points when they met in a 38-minute national championBy COUN MACQUILLAN

ship semi-final earlier this month in Manchester. On her home courts at the Northumberland club in Newcastle. however, Martin fought back from 3-7 down in the third game to add the women's string to the victories of Derek Ryan and James Willstrop. Ryan beat Chris Walker

and the 15-year-old Willstrop got the better of Bryan Beeson. the 38-year-old former national champion, 15-5 in the fifth game.

The 3-2 result lifted North-

umberland into second place in group A. Duffield, the champions, dropped to fourth place. with only the top two teams in each group guaranteed a play-

With only the two highest-

scoring third-placed teams qualifying for quarter-final places. Duffield have only one maich - against Manchester Northern, the bottom-placed team, on March 9 - in which to displace Hallamshire from third in group A. Hallamshire lost their last match of group play. 41 to the Capital One squad, in Nottingham.

#### TELEVISION CHOICE

## Getting hot in the kitchen

Ramsay's Boiling Point Channel 4, 9pm

The first of a five-part series following the fortunes of the London chef Gordon Ramsay over eight months, from the date of his walkout from Aubergine, one of the capital's top eating places, through the opening of his own solo venture and into the struggle to get his third Michelin star. Ramsay is as well known for his explosive temper, foul language under pressure and robust attitude to discipline in the kitchen as for his culinary expertise. Tonight's opener has plenty of all of these, especially when another television company secretly films him for a series about bullying hoses. There is no habout the bosses. There isn't, however, very much about the food, for which customers happily part with up to £100 a head. What is clear is that even staff who have been dismissed are unstiming in their admiration of his professional skills, if not his man-

Harbour Lights

Heartbeat on Sea, or Heartboat, as we may call it, Heartbeat on Sea, or Heartboat, as we may call it, continues to sail a safe, predictable but well-plotted course. Nick Berry, as the "enigmanit" harbourmaster, diplomatically contrives to be all things to all men fand women), while Edward Canfor-Dumas's script this week weaves together a reasonably dramatic tale of sea cadets in peril because of their drunken, bullying former Chief Petry Officer leader (Nicholas Ball, selflessly showing his agel and the continuing plotlines about the residents of the seaside town of Bridehaven. These include a budding romance between the harbourmaster and a local policewoman (Tina Hobley).

Wheeler Dealers BBC2, 8.30pm

Tonight two teams of three attempt to turn £1,000 into at least £1,001 in five days — they will be able to keep any profit — by buying and selling cars and motorbikes. While one trio put their faith and money into mopeds which have seen service in pizza de-

Illiese b

The temperature is rising for the chef in Ramsay's Boiling Point (Channel 4, 9pm)

liveries, the others assemble a mini-fleet of bottom-of-the-range second-hand cars. The nuts and boits, so to speak, of their efforts are less fascinating than the conflicts and conspiracies within the groups and the characters whom they encounter, as well as the incidental lore which you can pick up along the way — well, did you know anything about milky gaskets before you watched this?

Horizon: Sudden Death BBC2. 9.30pm

This film tells an extraordinary and sometimes heartbreaking story. Of the tens of thousands of infant deaths which occur every year, many have been attributed to apnoea or interrupted breathing. Alfred Steinschneider, a paediatrician, developed the theory of apnoea in 1972 after studying a family in which five babies died in infancy. Huge amounts of money were spent investigating the theory, millions of baby monitors were made and sold to anxious parents. But then a forensic pathologist and a district anorney re-examined Steinschneider's original study. It seemed there was another explanation for the family's loss, and in 1995 the mother was convicted of murdering all five of her babies.

Tony Patrick

#### RADID CHOICE

The Material World Radio 4, 4.30pm

I am always amazed at the mixed reactions that this programme produces in listeners. Some write to tell me it is unmissable, others to complain that it is made eminently missable by the presenter, Trevor Phillips. The latter response is mystifying, because I think Phillips is one of the best presenters on radio, Perhaps the ano Phillips brigade will give the programme another chance today; the sub-ject is acupuncture and in particular the efforts that science is making to find out why the practice

Crossing Continents

Radio 4. 11.00am Return of the series that seeks to explain others to ourselves, a laudable objective usually carried out in this programme with calm intelligence, Today's is a fascinating look at Iran, which is holding municipal elections tomorrow. The fact that any interest problems of the programme in the calman and the control of the calman and th elections are taking place will surprise many in the West but Tim Whewell's report shows that, with the second generation of post-revolutionary leaders in place, much else is changing in Iran.

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RADID 1 (BBC)

Merk Raddiffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lampoo; The Evening Session 10.00 Trade Update 10.10 John Peel, With guest P.J. Harvey 12.00em Andy Kershaw 2.00 Emma 8 4.00 Cive Warran

RADID 2 (BBC)

8.00am Sarah Kernedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm John Inverdale 2.00 Ed Stewen 5.85 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Cavid Alan 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Punt and Dennes It's Been a Bad Week (3/5) 9.30 Comedy Showcasa: Est This (6/7) 10.00 Melly Talke Jazz 10.30 Richard Alfinson 12.00am Lynn Parsons 3.00 Alex Lester

TALK RADID

My Favourite Year 1.00 Anna Reabum 3.00 Peter Deeley 5.00 The SportZone 7.00 One to One with Andy Gray 8.00 James Whale 1.00em Ian Collers and the Creatures of the Night

#### **BBC WORLD SERVICE**

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 From Our Own Correspondent 8.20 Off the Shell: Captain Corell's Mandotin 8.35 The World 9.00 World News 8.05 Network 9.20 Andry Kershaw's World of Music 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdeek 10.30 Enlan Today 10.45 Performence 11.00 Newsdeek 11.30 Assignment 12.00pm World News 2.05 The World 2.00 Mondo 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Greenfield Cotection 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 The Music Studio 4.45 The Lab 5.00 Europa Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 8.00 World News 8.15 Enlan Today 6.30 Assignment 7.00 World News 7.05 The World 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.45 Off the Shell, Captain Corell's Mandotin 8.00 Newshour 8.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Books 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 The Music Studio 10.45 The Lab 1.100 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Books 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 The Music Studio 10.45 The Lab 1.100 World News 11.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Westway 1.45 Performance 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Fo cus on Faith 3.00 The World Today \* 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny, Includes Sibelius (Night-Ride and Sunrise); Bach (Oboe d'amore Concerto in Fininor, BWV1053)

9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Bizel (Carmen Suile No 1); Schubert (Piano Sonata in A minor, D845); Havel (Introduction and Aflegro); Mozart (Solern Vespers in C, K339)

10.30 Artist of the Weelc Pascal Roge

11.00 Sound Stories: Planets — Neptune

12.00pm Composer of the Weelc Copland

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Louis Lorte, piano, Beethoven (Piano Sonatas: in A, Op 2 No 2, in D minor, Op 31 No 2, Tempest)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaalo Otales and Mark

2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaalo Otalea and Mark Wigglesworth Steven Issensis, ceto, Martin Roscoe, piano, Joan Rodgers, soprano, Neal Davies, bass. Tchalkovsky (Rococo Variations, original version), Mozart (Plano Concerto No 9 in E flat, K271); Shostakovich (Symphony No 14) 4.00 Ensemble Penny Gore introduces a sequence of Spanish dances devised and performed by the American violinist Kurt Niklanen 4.45 Muste Machine with Tommy Pearson 5.00 In Tune Sean Rafterly explores the life and work of Saint-Saens on the publication of a new biography.

bography
7.45 Performance on 3: Beyond Our Shores
(Sounding the Century) Live from the Royal
Concert Hall, Glasgow, Evelyn Glenne,

percussion, Royal Scottish National Orchestra under Stauart Bedford, MacMillar (The Exorcism of Rio Sumput); Sierra (Con madera, metal e cuero, first UK performance) 8.45 News from North Britain. The Thatched Root, the Roadside Madonna and the Barrio, Written by Bill Duncan and read by Michael MacNerule (4/5) 9.05 Concert, part two Britten, ar Mitchell/Cooke (Suite. The Prince of the Papodas)

18.00 Postscript: Doctors of Phillosophy — Schopenhauer with Alain de Botton (4/5)

10.20 Liszt (Reminiscences of Don Juan). Performed by Ignaz Friedman, piano

10.45 Night Waves Paul Alien talks to the celebrated design histonen Tanya Harrod about her book The Crafts in Britain in the Twenteth Cantury

11.30 Jazz Notas Alyn Shuton is joined by Dave Gelly

Crafts in Britain in the Twentieth Ceritury

11.30 Jazz Notas Alyn Shipton is joined by Dave Gelly for the latest jezz news

12.00am Composer of the Week: Dvorak (r)

1.00 Through the Night Includes 1.00 Monte Carlo PO under James de Preist, Emanuel Ax, piano Berlioz (Overture: Le corsare); Falla (The Three-Comared Hat, Suites Nos 1 and 2), Chopin (Piano Concero No 2 in Finnor) 2.10 Vaughan Williams (Romance) 2.20 Reincken (Toccata in Gimnor) 2.30 Mozart (String Quartet in 8 flat, K458, Huni) 3.00 Schools, Music Workshop 3.20 Let's Movel 3.40 Words Alive! 3.55 First Steps in Orama 4.10 Listen and Write 4.30 Radio Showcase 4.40 Check It Out

#### RADID 4

5.35sm Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today 6.00 Today with James Nauchive and Sue MacGregor 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update on

polical developments 9.00 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time 9.30 Q & A Jaz Nelson investigates whether computers could ever

10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Marray
10.00 Fat Chance 12.00 (LW) News Headtines;
11.30 Fat Chance 12.00 (LW) News Headtines;

Shipping Forecast 12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consume news and investigations, presented by John Wate and Liz Barday 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke

1.30 Open Country Richard Undge and Lindsay
Cannon experience writer in the Highlands
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition fig.
2.15 Afternoon Play: Assessins — The Virgin Knife
by Devid Pownal. The first of three plays probing
the minds of history's most celebrated killers
3.00 Call You and Yours 0870 010 0444 Consumer
astice congruence cresented by Peter White

J.O. Cas You and Yours york on brees consumer justice programme, presented by Peter White 3.30 The Man with the Two-Stroke Engine Engineer Gordon Blan discusses his work in developing the

4.00 Law in Action The people of Leeds tackle case studies from the magistrates' courts. Marcel Berlins presents
4.30 The Material World See Choice
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Yes, Minister Comedy set in the comidors of power, with Paul Eddington (r)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Arts magazine, with Francine Stock
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part nine of Tim Jackson's environmental diama.

7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part nine of Tim Jackson's environmental claims.
8.90 On Tapic A History of Drinking Water How outbreaks of cholera in the 19th century prompted a senes of sanitary reforms (2/3).
9.30 The Week in Westminster 9.00 Testbeds Vanessa Collingridge explores technology's part in everyday life.
9.30 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time (r).
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Roben Lusting 10.45 Book at Bedfime: Post Captain.
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Way it is Salire and

11.00 Late Night on 4: The Way it is Saire and sketches with Simon Evans, Tracy-Ann Oberman and Dave Lamb

11.30 (FM) A Good Read11.30 (LW) Today in

Parliament Update from Westminster
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Sam
Peckimpah: if it Moves — Kill 'Em Parl four of David Weddie's biography

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8 RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198: MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio liatings compiled by lan Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNemara.

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# These boots were made for . . . all sorts

lthough BBC2's Trouble at the Top is billed as a busi-Hiess documentary, its reachings are universal: you have to adapt to survive. Take the opening film of the new series, The Kinky Boot Factory, which traced Steve Pateman's efforts to refocus his family-run shoe factory in. Northampton from a firm specialising in black brogues to a firm specialising in kinky boots for the men's fetish market.

**美國**斯 经代本条件

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Isn't this much the same journey that Tony Blair has made from old Labour to new Labour. replacing the sandal-wearers and the Saxone socialists with electionwinners such as Jack "Boots" Cunningham. Gordon "Spike Heels" Brown, and Robin Cook with his red, crotch-length, patent leather boots, with integral whip holster? John Prescott, I should think, would be a pushover for Pate-man's thigh-high leopard-skin number with five-inch stilettos.

One of the tenderest moments of Michele Kurland's film came when Steve - still struggling to decide on a new shoe line that might keep the business afloat in the face of cheap imports - took delivery of some American footwear which he thought might represent the firm's future. His now retired father, who had steered the company through 35 years of traditional brogues and court shoes, was looking on. Steve tore open the large cardboard parcel to reveal a colourful selection of men's crotchlength leather boots with spikes so long that they d serve you reliably as crampons if you were planning to stroll up the Eiger soon.

"Believe it or not," Steve said excitedly to his Dad, "this style is in quite big demand, especially in Europe." Dad nodded thoughtfully, trying to calculate whether his son was making some kind of confession, or if he was just being hoazed on Candid Camera.

them two sizes up just to fit." But when Dad replied. 'Yeah sure, sure", you knew it was going to be all right, that Dad was going to brave the future, whatever it might hold, his life's work was being turned upside down, yet he was willing to trust in his son. You suddenly appreciated that the love of a parent for his child is truly bottomiess, even when that child is a grown man with a wife and child of his own, and a belated interest in paient leather.

ou got the feeling that "...ve will never let the family firm go under. He has too much energy. He's unthwartable. When he can't afford a male model to pose for photos in his new Divine Collection of kinky boots, he shaves his legs and models them himself. When retailers dither about putting in orders for his new designs, he takes his

REVIEW



boots directly to the customers at Lordon's Erotica Fair in Olympia (which is also the first time he meets the men who actually wear thigh-length feather boots. Scary). When punters at the Düsseldorf Shoe Fair, the big diary date for anyone in the shoe business. ignore his stand. Steve flies in a Northampton girl to pose half na-ked in his boots and leather bra, after which - lo and behold! - buy-

Joe

life to a Jerry Springer audience. Professors of marketing at Harvard Business School can teach you plenty of innovaove selling techniques, but you'll never go

wrong with cleavage.
Ask Barry Dennis about cleavage and he'll tell you the exact same thing. Or he'll tell you something else. At any rate he'll tell you something, because Barry never stops talking for longer than it takes to eat his preferred dinner of steak, two eggs, plenty of chips, and six slices of buttered white bread. Barry's an on-course bookie, the Cockney star of last night's Modern Times: Bookies Never Lose (BBC2) — although trying to find a bookie who'll admit as much is like trying to find a farmer who'll admit that he's wealthy and happy. Business gut so bad that on Derby Day, to attract puni-ers to his poorly located pitch. Barry got his niece and one of her

girlfriends to hover by his stand topless (though tastefully bodypainted as a jockey and a footballerl and - lo and behold! - the punters arrived in droves.

arry's the sort of documentary subject you'd think came straight from central casting if you didn't know that TV doesn't fake things like that. Robert Davis and Alastair Cook even made time in their entertaining and affectionate film to let us hear Barry's doorbell, which plays Beautiful Dreamer. "Easy game, bookmaking," said Barry from behind his steering wheel, speeding to yet another race meet-ing, "all you need is tickets and chalk. Change the prices, take money, and win. That's how easy the game is." This was black humour, of course; almost as black as the scene on Derby Day when Barry - lustily singing Rule Britannia as the Queen's limo

counting a brick-thick wad of twenties in a manner which slapped his spittle-primed thumb against the Ougen's face each time he peeled another note. The eye-opening fact in The Real Story of the Airtours Air

Rage (Channel 4) was not that the 12 Brits — the ones who were kicked off their Montego-bound plane three weeks ago at Norfolk. Virginia, because they were drunk - denied they'd been unruly. Nor was it that their unscheduled arrival was Norfolk's biggest news story for years. No, what struck you was the extraordinary hospita-bility of Americans. Hearing of their plight - stranded at Norfolk airport - Virginians telephoned the airport offering food, drink, and even their spare bedrooms. Would Britons have responded so generously? Tony Blair isn't that hospitable to Ken Livingstone.

BBCT 6.00am Business Breakfast (35019) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (71748) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (8656125)

9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4982800) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (8127564) 11.00 Change That (8137941). 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (8034800) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (1397187) 12.00pm Call My Bluff (42187) 12.30 Wipeout (4865449)

12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48853651) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (74835) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (47582019) 1.40 Neighbours Medge gets a nasty surprise (T) (25461274)

2.05 Ironside The wheelchair-bound sleuth tracks a man forced to wear a bomb bett by a scheming criminal (r) (3518835) 2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (1) (5862125). 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6785854) 3.45 The All New Popeye Show (2679038) 3.55 Pocket Dragon Adventures (2688922) 4.05 Antibony Ant (6225564) 4.20 Home Farm Twins (6213729) 4.35 Short Change (5557019) 5.00 Newsround (2097187) 5.10 Granga

5.33 Rewind (T) (176835)

5.35 Neighbours Medga gets a nesty surprise (r) (T) (571090) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (598) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (390)

7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson. Consumer investigation show (1) (6125) 7.30 EastEnders Fears for Courtney's safety mount (1) (274)



Nicholas Ball as the former Chief Petty Officer Alan Semole (8pm)

8.00 CHAICE Harbour Lights Mike is alarmed by the behaviour of a Falklands veteran whose bullying teaching methods are compounded by a strange attitude towards sailing. With Nick Berry and Nicholas Ball (T) (708800) 8.50 Points of View Des Lynam presents viewers' opinions (T) (739293)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (3496) 9.30 Playing the Field Jo is horrifled to discover the identity of her real father, and the Castlefield Blues find e new goalkeeper. Shazza and Eddis dive headlong into their new careers, while relations remain tense between-Geraldine and her mother. Starring Jo

Moinnes and John Thomson (T) (273106). 10.20 They Think It's All Over Again With guests Steve Collins and Tony Hawks (r) (1) (825090) 10.50 Question Time Assessment of the Stephen Lewrence report: (T) (7497554)

11.55 White Justice Steeps (1994) A widow begins to suspect that an old family triend may have abused her eight-year-old may have abused her eight-year-old daughter Drama, with Cytoll Shepherd and Tim Matheson. Directed by Alan Smithee (T) (542038)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Open a Door (3813274) 7.05 Telesubbes (6731816) 7.30 Snorks (5978449) 7.50 Blue Peter (6596903) 8.20 Taz-Mania (7602564) 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (3681212) 8.50 Fiddley Foodle Bird (3687496) 9.00 Job Bank (8968550) 9.10 Rolling Fig. (4412200) 9.20 Meters Belief File (4418309) 9.30 Watch (1593854) 9.45 Come Outside. (1598309) 10.00 Teletubbies (35458) 10.30 Storytime (2588903) 10.45 The Experimenter (7530293) 11.05 Space Ark

(8020038) 11.15 Zg Zag (6612534) 11.35 Pathways of Belief (8297854) 11.50 Mad about Music (8274903) 12.10pm English File (9244632) 12.30 Working Lunch (75903) 1.00 Fiddley Foodle Bird (94838941)

1.10 The Travel Hour (r) (9590903) 2.10 International Tennis: The Guardian Direct Cup Quarter-final coverage from Battersea Park (61646212)

2.40 News; Weather (T) (3908090) 2.45 Westminster (1) (2455632) 3.25 News; Weather (1) (7636470) 3.30 International Tennis: The Guardi Direct Cup Further coverage (496)

4.00 Keye (6866125) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (6869212) 4.55 Esther (1) (3103293)

5.30 Today's the Day (T) (767)

6.08 Star Treic Deep Space Nine The space station falls victim to a mysterious epidernic (r) (1) (417670)
6.45 Quantum Leep Part two (r) (1) (885729)
7.30 First Signt Report on the state of modern nursing (1) (816)

8.00 Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age The steeple;ack traces the development of Britain's textile industry (1) (4877) 8.30 CHOICE Wheeler Dealers Two teams are challenged to make their tortunes in the motor industry — in just

five days (T) (2922) 9.00 Red Dwarf Part two, Rimmer is invited to dinner by the Captain (1) (1038) CHOICE Hortzon A re-examination of a controversial theory about cot

death (1) (271748) 10.20 Tales of Tools The needle (1) (344835) 10.30 Newsmight With Kirsty Wark (1) (280816)



reviewed tonight (11.15pm)

11.15 Late Review Includes a review of John le Carré's new novel. Single and Single (348564)

11.55 Skling Forecast (520496) 12.00em Despatch Box (33959)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University.
Imagining the Pacific 1.00 France in the
Viewfinder 1.30 Two Research Styles
2.00 Further Education: Communication

at Work 4.00 Languages: Italianissimo 17-20 5.00 Teacher Training: Teaching Today Special 5.45 Open University: The Enlightenment — Reason and Progress 8.10 Strategy on the Screen 6.35 Forecasting the Economy HTV

5.30em ITN Morning News (71309) 6.00 GMTV (1660926 9.25 Trisha (T) (5016651) 10.30 This Morning (T) (11120458) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (7799187) 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (79729)

1.00 Shortland Street (69903) 1.30 Home and Away (T) (98800) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5434090) 2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (966748) 3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2450552) 3.20 HTV News (T) (5600075)

3.25 CTV: Mopetop's Shop (2355908) 3.35 The Adventures of Dawdle (3733309) 3.45 The Sylvesier and Tweety Mystenes (3713545) 4.00 Lavender Castle (6211361) 4.15 Hey Arnold! (3981903) 4.40 Children's Ward (2871922)

5.10 A Country Practice New nurse Claire Bonacci makes her mark (9689019) 5.36 HTV Crimestoppers (160274) 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (119309) 6:00 Home and Away Gypsy loses her cool

(f) (T) (451038) 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonightr (T) (398106) 6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (783274) 6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (1) (458) 7.00 Emmerdale Seth gets the order of the

boot (T) (1293) 7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out Britain's system for recalling dangerous products comes under scrutiny (670)

7.30 WALES: Wales This Week New series .Current affaire issues (670) 8.00 The Bill DCI Burnside Investigates a gang of women swinding hapless businessman (1) (6212)



Playing away: Kevin Purssord

9.00 Infidelity New series. Personal accounts of adultery, often featuring both - or all three - sides of the story, set to a soundtrack of classic romantic songs. Among the love-rats featured are Kevin, who juggled two unsuspecting girlfriends for eight years (1/3) (1) (3748) 10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (61212)

10.30 HTV News and Weather (1) (505767) 10.40 Thursday Night Live Hard-hitting debates (398274)

11.40 WEST: Anatomy of Disaster The disastrous worldwide effects of the freak weather front El Nino (441125) 11,40 WALES: We Can Work it Out (737564) 12.10 WALES: Tales from the Darkside

Painkiller. A backache sufferer's miracle cure backfires (6581688) 12.40am Liverpool Victoria Charity Snooker Challenge The first day (2215442) 2.10 T in the Park A performance by Robbie Williams. Last in series (6/5) (1426171) 3.10 Box Office America Top 10 US movie

releases (80807404) 3.35 Cybernet Computer news (40734607) 4.05 Potty About Pets (39025688) .4.30 Coach (71447797)

4.55 ITV Nightscreen (9232317)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except. 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather (T) (8198019) 1.00 Echo Point (69903) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (1285300) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (T) (967477) 3.20-3.25 Central News (T) (5500075) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9889019) 6.25-6.55 Central News; Weather (T) (436729) 6.55-7.00 Lifeline (T) (585854) 10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (T) (505767) 11.40-12.45 Storytellers: Rod Stewart (25745) 2.15am Sean Connery Close Up (9803238) 3.00 Pop Down the Pub (r) (80816152) 3.25 Cybernet (30826539) 3.55 The Making of Elizabeth II) (966-1084) 4.20 Central Jobfinder '99 (T) (4335355) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (7927220)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News; Weather (I) (7799187) 12.27-12.30 Hisminations; (8106038) 1.00 Emmerdale (r) (I) (69903) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (I) (1285380) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (I) (967477) 3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (I) (5600075) 5.08 Birthday People (5974545) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (I) (9889019) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (I) (87748) 10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (I) (505767) Westcountry News; Weather (T) (505767) 11,40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts (441125)

MERIDIAN

A- 4TV We\* | xept; 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (7799187) 5,10-5.40 Home and Away (1) (9889019) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (1) (106) 6.30-7.00 Getaways (458) 10,30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather (1) (505767) 11,40-12.40 New York News (441125) 5.00am-5.30 Freescreen (20442)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8100854) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (8198019) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1) (9889019) 5.59 Anglia Weather (1) (180038) 6.00 Anglia News (1) (106) 5.30-7.00 About Anglia (456) 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (600903) 10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weether (T) (505767) 11.40 Crime Night (629106) 11.55 First Take (r) (901212) 12.10am-12.40 Tales from the Durkside (r)

S4C

Starts: 5.55am Sesame Street (r) (80046057) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (\$4780212) 9.00 Ysgollon: History in Action (93847477) 9.20 Geographical Eye (\$3850941) 9.40 History in Action (63557816) 10.00 Middls English (5789699) 10.20 Fourways Farm (65303941) 10.30 Scientific Eye (69594835) 10.50 What the Papers Said (21598106) 11.00 The Number Crew (29879125) 11.10 Pitch Fever (53858816) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (40262293 12.00om Bewitched (T) (29189106) 12.30 Sesame Street (T) (38727293) 1.00 Planed Plant (T) (34790699) 1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (T) (38726564) 2.00 Racing from Wincanton and Huntingdon (53163390) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (81634212) 4.30 Ricki Lake (T) (81630496) 5.00 Plened Plant (64111187) 5.30 Countdown (T) (81621748) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (T) (54926570) 6.10 Heno (T) (16809477) 7.00 Pobel y Cwm (T) (64124651) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (81631125) 6.00 Slaymaker (T) (64140699) (1) (6103112) 3000 Saymanac (1) (6414093) 8.30 Pam Fl Duw? (1) (64129105) 9.00 i dot (48214449) 10.00 Father Ted (1) (1) (60821816) 10.35 Friends (1) (56238854) 11.05 King of the Hill (T) (67079038) 11.35 Rising Damp (T) (63181309) 12.05am Dispatches (T) (19149607) 12.35 Prey (T) (55626201) 1.30 Fusion (2/6) (T) (59786688) 2.05 Diwedd

CHANNEL 4 5.55am Sesame Street (3297651)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (64458) 9.00 Schools: History in Action (T) (4407293) 9.20 Geographical Eye Over Asia (T) (4494729) 9.40 Histroy in Action (T) (9887106) 10.00 Middle English (T) (1869564) 10.20 Fourways Farm (T) (18695651) 10.30 Scientific Eye (T) (7542038) 10.50 What the Papers Said (3275106) 11.00 The Number Crew (T)

18016835) 11.10 Pach Fever (7967421) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (7699) 12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (68125)

12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (90629) 1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (67545) 1.30 The Ocean World of John Stone

How changes in the manne environment could affect the future (r) (T) (92670) 2.00 Racing from Wincanton and Huntingdon Introduced by Brough Scott and Simon Holt (3361)

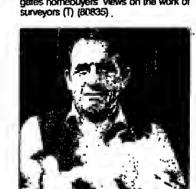
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (699) 4.30 Countdown (T) (5541458) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (3198361)

5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (835) 6.00 Dishes Dating show with a culinary theme (T) (748) 6.30 Hollyoaks Finn supports Kate on her big

day (T) (800) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (296390) 7.50 Transition: Legos Stories Musician Orlando Julius explains why he's returning to Lagos after 25 years in the West (T) (695090)

6.00 Wild Tales A look at the behaviour of snakes across the world (4854) 9.00 CHOICE Ramsey's Bolling Point New series chaning eight morths in the life of volable chet Gordon Ramsay

(1/5) (T) (6106) 9.30 Dispatches Callum MacRae investi-gates homebuyers' views on the work of



Classic comedy with Leonard Rossiter as Rigsby (10pm)

10.00 Rising Damp Pogsby gives Alan a scare (r) (T) (774545) 10.35 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (r) (T)

(533309) 11.05 Ally McBeal A leisty attorney (Sandra Bernhard) makes her presence lelt in a sexual harassment case (r) (T) (173187) 12.05am 4 Later Introduction; Prey (8108274) 1.00 Vids Officeat video review (49065)

1.30 The Communique (6329959) 1.40 NYPO Blue Medavoy and Martinez investigate a bodega fronting tilegal activities (r) (T) (6385317)

2.30 St Elsewhere Craig's vagabond brother ensures that sibling rivalnes dog his wedding anniversery (1) (3277794) 3.20 Bond Street (1948) Roland Young stars on this compelling drama consisting of lour stories connected to a wedding.

Directed by Gordon Parry (803065) 5.10 Cane Toads How an Australian pest-control plan backfired (r) (2819607) CHANNEL 5

and he's in his own party.

6.00am 5 News and round-up (6147458) Sport Headline 7.00 WideWorld Part five. Comparisons between the education systems in Britain and France (r) (T) (6512699)

7.30 Milkshake! (2041203) 7.35 Wimzie's House It); 5 News Lipdate

(3767125)

8.00 Havakazoo (n (4540699) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update

9.00 Animat House (r) (T) (1232106)

9.25 Russell Grant'a Postcards (r) (7967477) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6603361) 10.20 Sunset Beach Arry and Brad come clean to Ernity (T) (1610854)

11.10 Leeza (4029477) 12.00pm 5 News at Noon (1) (4510458) 12.30 Family Affairs Pete is funous with Claire

(r) (T); 5 News Updata (9555632) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Grant admits that he is seeing another woman (T) (6504670)

1.30 The Roseanne Show Interview with Bill Cosby (r), 5 News Update (9554903) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5700632) 2.30 Good Afternoon (1353212)

3.30 Uncommon Valour (TVM 1983) A

Beleaguered fire chief fights a deadly
hospital blaze, tending off unwanted
distractions from a irustraled colleague and a deranged arsonist in the process. Drama, with Mitchell Ryan. Directed by Rod Ameteau; 5 News Update (9347274) 5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5

News Update (5891075) 8.00 100 Per Cent Outz (6967477) 6.30 Family Affairs Cat gives Pete a taste of his own medicine (T) (6958729)

7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5711748) 7.30 Champions of Nature Documentary locusing on Diane Clandge and her work with dolphins (T): 5 News Update

(6970941)
8.00 The Pepsi Chart The Corrs perform
Aunaway. Plus, Britney Spears's video

Baby One More Time (5720496) 8.30 Stranger Than Fiction A look at the bizerre and baffling phenomenon of cattle mutilation. Who is responsible and could there be any extratenestrial involvement?: 5 News Update (5709903) 9.00 Danger Island (1996) A group of

air-crash survivors are washed up on an island — but the discovery that it's infected by a deadly virus makes them reatise their problems are only just beginning. Adventure, staming June Lockhart, Joe Lara and Richard Beymer. Directed by Tommy Lee Wallace (T): 5

News Update (44038748) 10.40 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment Comedy quiz (8886019)

11.15 Red Shoe Diaries New senes. Erolic slories of obsession (5572598) 11.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chal and

music (7420496) 12.30em Live and Dangerous With Mark

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Heather tries to follow Dennis's example, and Judy gets a special prize in Bev's lottery (9497521) 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (9439688)

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• For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY ONE

7.00em Count Duckula (24854) 7.30 Chris Evens (27563) 6.30 Hollywood Squeres (13699) 8.00 Sally Jessy Rephied (90458) 10.00 Oprah Whitrey (41865) 11.00 Cultily (2000) 4.000mm (41865) 11.00 Cultily 10.00 Opran Wester (14:005) 11.00 Opran Wester (14:005) 12.00 pran Jenny. Jones (21:105) 1.00 Mad. About You (23:125): 1.30 Jennys (34670; 2.00 Selly Jessy Raphaei (87835) 8.00 Jenny Jones (43654) 4.00 Callyl (22:36) 5.00 Star Treic. Voysger (1458) 8.00 Amenca's Durnbest Chrimels (80:0) 8.30 Dream Feam (2670).7.00 The Smpsors (2187) 7.30 The Smpsors (8654) 8.00 Amenca's Durnbest Chrimels (1458) 8.00 Amenca's Durnbest Chrimels (1458) 8.00 Amenca's Durnbest Chrimels (8554) 8.00 America's Weindest: TV (8570) 8.00 Friends (28545) 8.30 ER (86564) 18.30 Veronica's Closet (84584) 11.00 Dream Team (230 90) 11.30 Star Trek-Voyager (95125) 12.30mm The Commish (81046) 1.30 Long Play (7184830) SKY BOX OFFICE

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FILMFOUR B.Dopm Crimesers (1985) (1839458) 7.30 Ls Jube (1962) (1091800) 6.00 Twelve Monkeys (1995) (5172264) 10.10 The Vanishing (1988) (633947) 12.00em The Shining (1980) (2139378) 2.00 Benny's Video (1992) (4643355) 2.50 Miller's Crossing (1990) (39865143) SKY PREMIER 5.10em Cocoon: The Heben (1988) (54183038) 8.00 The Bomber Boys (1995) [76729] 19.00 To GREAN on her

(1995) (76729) 19.00 To GREEN on her 37th Birthday (1996) (11729) 12.00pm The Directors: Ron Howard (14816) 1.00 Femines Fatales: Susan Senandon (23684) 2.00 Cococot: The Return (1986) (730800) 3.50 The Borsber Boys (1996) 1507300) 5.30 To Green on her 37th Birthday (1996) (31960) 7.20 Tracey 1eles On. Sport (1564) 8.00 Hobywood

Buzz (4545). 8.30 Night Fells on Menhetten (1997) (37308) 16.30 The Rock (1998) (6176670) 12.45am Mother (1996) (291069 2.25 Acts of Love (1995) (317423) 4.15 The Directors (252220) SKY MOVIEMAX

S.T. MUVIEMAX

5.25m. Iventoo (1962) (79747854) 7.55
Guinavere (1963) (9732354) 9.25
Godzilin vs Gigen (1972) (91937485)
11.00 Race the Sun (1998) (74583)
1.00pm James and the Glent Peach
(1998) (92797) 8.00 Guinavere (1993)
(99341) 5.00 Rece the Sun (1996) (93748)
7.00 James and the Glent Peach (1986)
(91318) 8.00 Perfect Crime (1987)
(78038) 1.100 Sparen (1997) (526019)
12.40en Murder in My Mind (1748 1987)
(800881) 2.15 Maries The True Story
(1965) (712546) 4.10 Stoothounds III (1965)\* (712648) .4.10 Bloodhous (1967) .(7819681) SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Terror By Night (1946) (495632) 8.30 Hell of Fame: John Meyre (3992767) 6.00 The Duchess and the Dishester Fox (1978) (165961) 8.00 How to Marry a Millionaire (1953) (1691106) 18.00 Under the Volcano (1984) (5/28361) 11.55 Churtet (1961) (7868941) 1.40em Days of Clory (1944) (36083283) 3.10 Tight Spot (1955) (5007220) 4.50 Hall of Ferne: Spot (1955) (6907220) 1300 (1956) Robert Michum (14300387) TNT

9.00pm Butterfield Eight (1960) (\$2794835) 11.00 The Postmen Always Rings Twice (1946) (38193656) 1.16a; The Cirl and the General (1967 (73615404) 3.00 Buttonfield Eight (1980 SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre 7.15 Wrestling 8.15 You're On Sky Sports! 9.00 Recing News 9.30 Aerobics 10.00 Unbellevable Sports 10.30 FA Cup Special 12.00pm Acrobies 12.30 Ringside 2.00 Spanish Footbell 3.00 Unbeleveble Sports 3.30 VI kizv 4.00 World Pool League 5.00 World Footbell League Review 7.00 Centre 6.30 Football League Newton 7-70 What a Westend-7.39 Fuibol Municial 8.00 Sparest Football 10,00 Spares Centre-19,16 You're On Sily Sports 11,00 Trans World Sport 12,00em Sports Centre 12,18 You're On Sily Sports 1:00 Football League Review 1.30 What a Westend 2,00 Futbol Municial 2.30 Spatish Football 4.39 Sports Centre 4 45 Cinte. SKY SPORTS 2

7.00em Aerobios 7.30 Sports Centra 7.45
Reong News 8.15 Unbelievable Sports
8.45 Sports Centra 8.00 Fish TV-10.00
World Pool League 11.00: Golf 3.00pm
Total Sport 3.30 FA Cup Special 5.00 Inside
the Sentor PGA Tour 5.30 Footbell League
Review 8.00 What A Westerd 9.30 Inside
the Sentor PGA Tour 7.00 Live Golf 11.00
The Rugby Cub 12.00am Tight Lines 1.00
toe Hockey 3.30 Sports Centra 3.45 Close
SMOV SENOUETS 2 SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wresting 1.00 Fish TV 2.00 The Entertainers 2.30 Watersports World 3.30 Sports Unimated 4.00 Urbstewable Sports 5.00 Sunvival of the Fittest 5.30 The Rugby Club 6.30 Fishing Tight Lines 7.30 Live by Hodiny 10.00 Bobby Charten's Football Scrapbook 11.30 Close EUROSPORT 7.30am Pwo-a-Side Footbell 8.30 Northc

Siding 9.30 Live Worten's Nords Siding 16.30 Worten's Alpine Sking 11.30 Norths Sking 11.30 Norths Sking 11.30 Norths Sking 1.00 Live Worten's Babhari 3.15 Live Tennis 4.30 Women's Nords Sking 8.00 Racing Line 5.30 Live Fee-a-Side Footbal 7.00 Live Tennis 8.30 Live Fee-a-Side Footbal 10.00 Athletes 11.00 Board 12.00am Racing Line 12.30 Close UK GOLD 7.00am Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.30 When the Boar Corres in 10.30 Rhote 11.00 Dalas 11.55 Negatiours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Juliet Bravo 2.00 Dalas 2.55 The Bill

3.55 EastEnders 4.20 Rhoda 5.00 All Creetures Great and Small 8.00 Dynasty 7.00 2porti4 Children 7.40 Dau's Army 6.30 The British Empire 9.00 The Young Once 9.45 Bettern 10.25 Common as Much 11.50 The Bd 12.50cm Blackadder # 1.30 French and Saunders 2.00 Dangerield 2.45 Shopping with Screenshop GRANADA PLUS 6.00em Within These Walts 7.00 Bowler

5.00mh Wilmin Trees Wass 7,30 sower 7,30 Doctor at Large 8,30 Beade's About 0,30 The Many Wives of Patrick 9,00 Classic Coronation Street 9,30 Emmedale Familia 10,00 Upstairs Downsels 11,00 The Gentle Touch 12,00 pm Classic Coronation Street 12,30 Emmedale Fam 1,00 The Many Wives of Patrick 11,30 Pig in the Nation 200 Linestein 11,30 Pig in the Nation 200 Linestein 11,30 Pig in the



Kevin Costner and Olivia Williams star in the epic post-epocalyptic drama The Postman (Sky Box Office 1)

Love Bost 4.00 The Saint 5.00 Hart To Hart 8.00 Emmerdate Farm 6.30 Chasto Coro-nation Street 7.00 Mission Impossible 9.00 The Love Boat 8.00 Chastic Coronabon Street 9.30 The Comedians 10.00 Jokes Wild 10.30 Sez Les 11.00 Men and Motors

**CARLTON SELECT** 5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gm/Dob' 6.00 London Bridge 6.30 Get Sach 7.00 Boom 8.00 Ammal SOS 8.30 An Inspector Calls 8.00 St Elsewhere 10.00 Tales from 12.00mm Us and Them 12.30 Gridlock

DISNEY CHANNEL 6.00am Best in the Big Blue House 6.25 Classic Toons 6.25 Gummi Bears 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101 Delmaters 8.00 Goof Toods 9.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Spot 9.05 Animal Shell 9.15 Pocket Dragons 9.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 9.35 The Toothbrush Famey 10.00 Bie Size 10.10 Tots TV 10.36 Big Garage 10.45 PB and J Otter 11.00 Sesame Street 12.00pm The Adventures of Spot 12.05 Archal Shefi 12.15 Podret Dragons 12.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Tochbrush Family 1.00 Big Size 1.10 Tots TV 1.30 Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Otlor 2.00 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh 2.30 Quec Pack 3.00 The Little Mermeid 3.30 Ar Attack 4.00 101 Dalmatians 4.30 Hercules The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Pepper Ann 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel Meats World 7.00 FALK: 101 De (1996) 8.40 Drossurs 8.00 Honey I Shruni-the Kids 8.45 Home Improvement 10.15 Mega Movic Magr; 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Dr Currn 12.00am Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK 6.00am Advertures of Dodo 6.05 Power

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

BUBBARN Adventures of Dodo 6.05 Power Rangers Turbo 6.55 Spiderman 7.20 Oggy, and the Codsroaches 7.20 Donkey keing Country 8.00 Hero Turtes: The Next Materion 8.25 The Incredible Hult 8.50 from Man 9.15 Fentastic Four 9.40 X Men 19.05 Casper 18.30 Oggy and the Codkroaches 19.55 Eek/Stravaganza 11.05 Bobby's World 11.30 Life with Loue 11.55 Home to Paint 12.05 from Dems and Govern 12.30. Plant 12.05pm Dennis and Grasher 12.30

Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Moving The New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Ventura 1.55 The Incredible Hull. 2.20 Iron Man 2.45 Fantasate Four 3.10 X-Nen 3.30 Fo. Kds X-Press 3.35 Spoterman 4.00 Gooseburns 4.25 Hwo Turtes The Neat Mutation 4.50 Casper 5.00 Dennis and Gressler 8.30 Ace Ventura 8.00 Donkey Kong Country 8.30 Eek/Stravagenza 6.55 Opgy and the Cockmacher 7.00 Close NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Lile 6.20 Bruno the Kid 7.00 CatDog 7.30 Rograts 8.00 The Wid Thomberns 6.30 Arthur 9.00 CBBC 10.00 Winzar's House 10.30 Babar 11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 PB Bear atd 12.00pm Ruggists 12.30 Blue's Clues 1.00 Bansana in Pyjamas 1.30 Little Bear Scries 2.00 Clangers etc 2.30 CBBC 3.30 Arthur 4.00 Three Friends and Jeny 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Stater Seter 6.30 Sabrina 6.00 Renford Rejects 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team 8.00 LAP 0 9.30 Cops 19.00 The Late Lounge 10.30 Erote. Corressions 11.00 FILBIT Deep Cover (1982) 1.00pm Sex 8 Bytes 1.35 Erote. Series 2.05 The Late Lounge 2.35 Copt. 3.85 Film: The Park: In Needle Park (1971) 5.90 LAPD 5.30 Bushelo 0.00 Clote PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fre 8.00 Elen 8.30 NewsPadro 8.00 Drep the Dead Donkey 9.30 Whose Line Is it Anyway? 10.00 Frasier 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Serield 11.30 The Lerry Sanders Show 12.00em Late Night with David Letterman 1.00 Tes 1.30 The Critic 2.00 Dr Katz 2.30 Tibs and Fros 3.00 Nightstand 3.90 Abbot and Donated 6.40 Olices Costello 4.00 Close

SATELLITE: Spin-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bloomberg Information Television 9.00 Sightings 9.00 Buck Rogers in the Soluting 300 cook roges in the 25th Certary 18.00 Quantum Leap 11.00 Dark Shadows 11.30 The Rey Bradbury Treater 12.00pm The Tweight Zone 12.30 The Twaight Zone 10.0 Jales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Falls of the Unexpected 1.30 Represe 2.00 Amazing Stores 2.30 Mysteres, Magic and Mysteres 3.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century 4.00 The Incredible Hulk 5.00 Sightings 6.00 Time Trax 7.00 Ouentum Leep 6.00 Roswell Cover-Ups and Close Encounters 9.00 Bebylon 5 10.00 FB.Mr. Monolith (1963) 12.00mm New Affect Hichook 12.30 The Ray Bractoury Theaire 1.00 FB.Mr. Dracuta's Widow (1969) 2.35 Sc-Focus Special 3. 00 The Twilight Zone 3.30 Darl Shadows 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00mm Today's Gournet 0.30 Graham Ker 7.00 Room Senice 7.30 The Paniled House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 9.00 Smoly Paniling 9.25 The Home and Lesure House 3.00 Potted History with Antony Henn 10.00 Reaf Gardens 10.30 Cookabout with Greg and Max 11.00 The Dicemen 11.30 Fishing Australia 12.00pms Our House Down Under 12.30 Antopas Trail 1.00 Our House 1.30 Hometime 9.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Vila 3.00 This Old House with Steve and Norm 3.30 Go Fishing DISCOVERY

4.00pm Res Hunt Führing Adventures 4.30 Warker's World 6.00 Wheel Nuts 5.30 Treasure Hunters 6.00 Wheel SOS 6.30 Superhart 7.30 The Elegant Sotaron 8.00 Discover Magazine 9.00 Science Frontiers 18.00 Super Structures 11.00 Forenso Detectives 12.00mm Super Structures 1.00

**ANIMAL PLANET** 12.00pm Horse Tales 12.30 Going Wild 1.00 Nature Watch with Julian Petitler 1.30 Crocodie Hunter 2.00 Wildfile ER 2.3s Human/Nature 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Hanna's Zon Life 4.30 Annual Docto 5.00 Pet Rescue 6.30 Crocodile Hunte 8.00 The New Adventures of Stack Beauty 6.30 Lassie 7.00 Rediscovery of the Work 8.00 Arimal Doctor 8.30 The Blue Beyond 9.30 Emergency Vets 18.00 Deadly Australians 16.30 The Big Animal Show 11.00 Wild Rescues 11.30 Emergency Vets. 12.00sm Chose

12.00am Close NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Rise of the Falcon 7.30 The Eogle and the Shake 8.00 Man Eaters. Kornodo Dragons 8.00 Extreme Earth Avalanchet 9.30 Extreme Earth Flight from the Volcano 10.00 On the Edge Tsunani — Killer Wave 11.00 Ocean Worlds Sunival on the lost officers Mortel Coson Driffers.

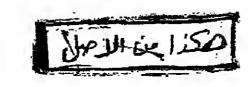
HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War. This Mightly Scourge of War 5.00 Weapons at War Arcraft Camers 6.00 Ancient Prophecy 7.00 Werhorser in the Face of Fire

**CARLTON FOOD** 8.00am Food Notwork Daily 9.30 Coxon's kitchen College 10.00 Chall for a Day 10.30 Alive and Cooking 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 A Size of the Action 12.00pm Food Notwork Daily 12.30 Food Factory 1.00 Coxon's Kitchen College 1.30 The Green Gourmal 2.00 Texas Brantley's Country Kitchen 2.30 Food Network Daily 8.00 Scolland's Lander 3.30 A Size of the Action 4.00 From the Ground Lin 4.30 Mindale. 4.00 From the Ground Up 4.30 Mindula's Indian Kitchen 5.00 Close

LIVING LIVING
6.00am Try and Crew 6.20 Johnson and Frends 6.30 Greedysaurus and the Gang 6.40 Tmy Tales 6.45 Philbert the Frog 6.50 Polks Doi Shoris 7.00 Process Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Carlou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical Parenting 9.00 Barney and Frends 8.25 Babeloce 8.30 Carlou 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Carlou 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Carlo Cook, Worlt Cook 9.30 The Rossaune 5how 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Powch 11.40 Brooksde 12.10 pm Anmal Rescue 911 1.10 Special Bubble 1.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Special Bubble 1.40 Reyond Belef, Fact or Fiction 2.10 LA Law 3.10 Living Room 4.00 Michael Cole 4.50 Ro Londa 5.40 Rescue 8.10 Maury Powch 8.00 Fill. His Mightmare (1991) 11.00 Sex Life Down Under 12.00am Cose
ZFE TV ZEE TV

8.00am Chei Raasia 5.30 Music Time 6.00 Hero Kal Aaj Au 6.30 Awaza Nayee Andaz Wish 7.00 Sai Baba 7.30 News 8.00 Karoban Dinya 8.30 Saitaab 9.00 Zarqeeren 9.30 Health Show 19.00 Haseaan 11.00 Pot Luck 11.30 Parampara 18.00pm FLM 3.00 Zee Bangia 3.30 Public Demand 4.00 Albar Bribal 4.30 Fairdeel Artialshan 8.30 Dorair 6.00 Pop Time 6.30 Hip Hip Huray 7.00 Gridgudee 7.30 Cinemagia 8.00 News 8.30 Crishat Aus Natral 8.00 Hasratein 9.30 Burn 2 10.30 Anthones 11.00 Majuhe Chaand Chathiye 11.30 Aboul You 12.00am News 12.30 Zee Busness S how 1.00 Zee Bangia 1.30 Raahat 2.00 FR.M Se 4.30 An Hour With 5.00am Cher Razeta 5.30 Music Time 6.00



#### **RUGBY UNION 50**

Prop looks forward to getting back in the England fold

**BRYANT'S EYE 54** 

The campaign to take sport beyond the fringe



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25 1999

Plan for biennial tournament shelved

# Blatter backs down over World Cup

FROM ROB HUGHES IN GENEVA

THE idea of a football World Cup every two years, hailed by some as doubling the chances of England staging the event, was shelved here yesterday. If it happens at all, it will not be for at least ten years.

This became evident after Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, the game's governing body, was summoned to explain to Uefa, the European football union, why he had floated his concept of the biennial World Cup to a Swiss tabloid newspaper without con-sulting or informing the executives of either body. Blatter was contrile. I came here to reinstate a dialogue with Uefa," he said after addressing the Uefa executive committee.

"I realised that I must give in on this occasion, but I have not forsaken the concept. First, we must all work together, all continental federations in the world, to co-ordinate the calendars. Until we all play to the same season, I recognise that it is a little premature to bring the World Cup up to date. even though I am convinced the four-year rotation ... is outdated. This could not now

happen before 2010.

victory for democracy and while the new president of Fifa has accepted that - unlike João Havelange, his predecessor - he cannot dictate policy, what happened yesterday was

the power politics of the sport. Blatter, who had to put back a flight to New Zealand to sit before the Uefa executive, met Lennart Johansson, the Swede whom he had beaten by III votes to 80 for the presidency of Fifa last June, at breakfast. It was a poignant meeting. Johansson, the Uefa president, had reacted with uncharacteristic fury to Blatter's unilateral proposal. "I could not accept that I am the head of Uefa, I am a vice-president of Fifa and chairman of the World Cup organising committee, yet all that I knew of Mr Blatter's proposals was what I read in the press," he said. "This is not the democracy we promised last

Blatter had heard on Monday from Pelé, Sir Bobby Charlton, Franz Beckenbauer and, to a lesser extent, from Michel Platini - all members of a players' commission that he has formed within Fifa that there was, at best, luke-warm enthusiasm for dou-

Blatter, right, and Johansson present a united front yesterday

TIMESTWO

No 1650

bling the wear and tear on players to accommodate twice as many World Cups. Sir Bobby, especially, believes that the rhythm of a four-year tournament is perfect because it stimulates players and spectators alike, it never goes stale and it is profitable.

After taxes, the 1998 World Cup in France is expected to yield a profit of £21.5 million. Small wonder that the British Government, as well as the Football Association, want it.

Nor have the television moguls been slow to back Blatter. Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, has been clear in his enthusiasm. There were those here yesterday who felt that he would be, that any man on the business side of football would cherish

the opportunity.

Moreover, Johansson admits that, had Blatter's proposal been put to the 203 nations affiliated to Fifa, it would have carried the vote. The irony is that nations of the Third World, obviously interested in doubling their income, have been put beyond the bounds of hosting the event since, to attract their vote for the presidency in the first place, World Cups were expanded to 32 nations. The \$1 billion that can now be procured from television and sponsorships is the price that African and Caribbean nations pay for watching

World Cups from afar. Blatter made the best of his defeat. The idea has provoked the discussion we badly needed on the coordination of the world calendar," he said. "For the time being I am a little bit out of my constitution in coming here to Uefa, but I am comfortable if this intensifies the relationship between Fila and Uefa, because from here we can go forward, speaking one to the other." Johansson said: "I think it is a sign of a great president that he admits he made a mistake. I personally am against having the World Cup more frequently. but we have ten years now to

discuss this, and it is my duty,

as well as that of the president

of Fifa, to listen to what our

members want and to react to

in between Blatter consulting the players on Monday and the executives yesterday, the German Government voted to accept Fifa's insist-ence that, should Germany win the nomination to stage the 2006 World Cup. players' fees and prize-money would not be taxed. This pledge matches that of the British Government and gives Germany a more level playing field in the quest to stage what will remain, for now, a fouryearly opportunity to play

sport and make big money.

Paul Azinger, of the United States, plays his tee-shot to the par-three 3rd hole during his first-round match against Ernie Els, of South Africa; yesterday NICK PRICE was the first man to start in the Andersen Consulting Match Play Cham-pionship here yesterday, and when he defeated Frankie Minoza on the 15th green he was the first to finish as wel

"Five good matches, that is what it will take to win this event," Price had said on the eve of this \$5 million tournament, the first of three in the World Golf Championship. "One down and four to go" is what he might have thought to himself after he had beaten Minoza, of the Philippines. 4 and 3 and carned himself a minimum of \$50,000 for his

three hours' work. Price and Minoza had begun at 7.20am, when the morning air was cold and the sun had not yet risen high enough to burn off the earlymorning mist that hung over La Costa, Price always carried too much firepower for Minoza and this was brought home when he chipped in for an eagle three on the long 2nd hole. He was one up at the turn and then put paid to Minoza's chances by winning

the next three holes as well. "I can't remember finishing at 10.30 before," Price said with a grin. "I'm going to have to find a lot of things to do to fill the rest of the day." Price will now play Jeff Maggert. who defeated Fred Funk by two holes.

With a field that contains 64 of the leading 65 gollers in the world, it might have been thought that the crowds would have flocked to see the stars competing in ideal conditions

## Value of early start soon dawns on Price

on a course set up for matchplay - that is to say, with wide fairways and greens that are fast but not frighteningly so. In fact, the opposite was the

It was a surprise to be able to roam a course that seemed deserted in comparison with the crowds at a strokeplay event. Greg Norman and John Cook drew perhaps 50 spectators, and when Colin Montgomerie and Craig Stadler teed off, even the fact that Stadler is a local boy did not persuade more than perhaps

> **RESULTS FROM CARLSBAD**

PREST ROUND (Linked States unless states). N Proc (2m) bit Filteroza (FM) 4 and 3.3 Libonard bit M A Jiménez (ph) 4 and 3.5 Libonard bit M A Jiménez (ph) 4 and 3.5 Stocker lost 5 Maruyama (Japan) 3 and 2.7 Michaban bit N Case (Japan) 3 and 2.7 Michaban bit N Case (Japan) 3 and 2.7 Michaban bit D P Spiciard (Swell S and 3.1 Libonaro bit G Doy 3 and 2. V Snigh (FW) bit N Mediate 5 and 3. Michaban bit G Doy 3 and 2. V Snigh (FW) bit N Mediate 5 and 3. Michaban bit G P Franco (Par) 2 and 1.8 Lamper (Gar) bit B Francis And 2 Libban bit G Franco (Par) 2 and 1.8 Lamper (Gar) bit B Francis And 2 Libban bit D Francis (Ag) (12). G Norman (Aug) 2 up on 1 Cook (M). C Mortgoritans (GE) 5 down to C Stadler (10) J Husson level with B Estate (3.) J Farneyk (Gwe) I down to C Parry (Aug) (S): P Stewart 1 christ S Clink (2). O Carles (GS) 1 down to A Megae (1). B Wotto level with 1 Bjorn (Den) (1)

several

joint-association

were small peer

in comparison

to what the two

clubs now envis-

have

Both

grown into extremely large

businesses in the last decade

and have turnovers in excess

of £30 million. They need the

kind of corporate backing that

can help sustain their expand-

ing wage bills. In return, a

sponsor would get two clubs

whose appeal spreads far

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

100 spectators to support him. It was like watching the Amateur . Championship, except that these were the best professionals in the world.

Miguel Angel Jiménez must have felt much as Minora did-Spain to California is a long way to travel to be comprehensively beaten 4 and 3. Justin Leonard was as sharp, if not sharper, than Price had been earlier. The 1997 Open champion was perhaps stung into action by the way that Jimenez started, birdieing two of the

first three holes. Leonard levelled by the 5th and then pulled away from Junenez, the Europe vicecaptain in the 1997 Ryder Cup. though Jiménez managed one final flurry when he hit a three-wood to three feet on the 9th for a birdie.

"Justin was six under par when he beat me, so it was no disgrace to lose to him." Jimenez said. "I know it is a long way to come, but that is how it is in matchplay. I played well but not brilliantly. I made a critical mistake in allowing row starting at the 11th."

as circumspect as he looked forward to the match against the Briton. "Nick Faldo is a true champion." Woods said. "Even if he is not up to his normal form he is still a danger-The day's biggest crowd was following Tiger Woods, the top seed, in his match against

Nick Faldo, the lowest-ranked

man in the field. "Knowing

Nick's mentality, how strong

his head is, he always has

found ways to win golf tourna-

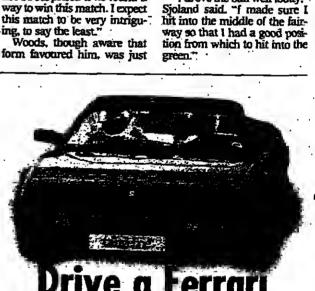
ments," Greg Norman had

said of the man who beat him

in the 1996 Masters. "I would not be surprised if he found a

Patrick Sjoland, one of the contenders for a place in the Europe Ryder Cup team, defeated Jim Furyk, who played for the United States at Valderrama in 1997, 5 and 3. Sjoland is baby-faced and quietly spoken, a manner that conceals a rare determination and the sort of golf style that opponents find infuriating. Furyk certainly did. He looked as though he did not know what had hit him after his defeat.

"I drove the ball well today." Sjoland said. "f made sure I



## Old Firm plan joint venture

ACROSS 1 Giving good view (6) 5 Sprain: (hav)stack (4) 8 Pull: attract (4) 9 Fruitless: rudimentary (8) 10 Cream/wine/lemon\_dessert

11 Wiles (4) 12 Seller (6) 14 Vigour (6) 16 Halt #1

18 Hated (8) 20 (Text) supplement (8) 21 A spice: a staff (4) 22 Funeral fire (4) 23 Confederate opponent (Civil DOWN 2 Thomas -, Victorian essayist/ historian (7) 3 Staircase post (5) 4 Hotel bedmakers (12)

5 Wearisome competitive struggle (3.4) 6 To envy (5) 7 Twofold setback (slang) (6.6)

13 Reduce in strength, number 15 Where Campbells massacred Macdonalds (7)

17 Radio programme; present age (5) 19 St Paul such a citizen (5)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1649** ACROSS: 1 Regicide 7 Photo 8 Posterity 9 Sag 10 Duel 11 Recart 13 Ealing 14 Mirror 17 Ornate 18 Burr 20 Gyp 22 Whitehali 23 Align 24 Remember DOWN: 1 Rapid 2 Gaskell 3 Chef 4 Drivel 5 Coast 6 Rougher 7 Pyramid 12 Unknown 13 Elegiac 15 Rhubarb 16 Strike 17 Ophir 19 Ruler 21 Bede

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THE Old Firm may have divided Glasgow's football supporters for more than a century but, when it comes to new money, Celtic and Rangers appear to be united in pursuit of a joint-sponsor. Neither club would confirm yesterday that a £12 million shirtsponsorship deal with NTL. an American media company,

have established the need for common corporate branding. NTL who have purchased a 6 per cent stake in Newcastle United, said yesterday that the reports of an Old Firm tie-

is in the offing, but the one

thing that is not in doubt is

that Celtic Park and Ibrox

up were "speculation", while a Celtic spokesman said simply: We are in discussions with a number of organisations about sponsorship. However, there are indications that the clubs have spo-

ken to a number of companies about joint-sponsorship as they seek to maximise their potential to become among the biggest clubs in Europe. The need for Glasgow's arch-rivals to seek out the same fairy godfather is not

so much encumenicism. as

Phil Gordon says two of football's fiercest rivals seem close to

agreeing to share the same sponsor

economics. Both realise that a joint-sponsor would help them command a bigger market place than at present. The supporters apply a kind of consumer apartheid. Few Celtic supporters will opt for a pint of lager from McEwars. Rangers' sponsors for the past decade. while

Celtic's deal with Umbro ensures Rangers fans rarely part with money for that particular brand of sports-Should the

NIL deal come to fruition, and the feeling within Glasgow is that a three-year package, which would net Cehic and Rangers E6 million apiece, is the best offer on the table, then it would not be the first time that the Old Firm have joined forces in the name of finance.

beyond Glasgow. Like Man-chester United, each has large followings in Australia and North America, as well as Europe. Celtic have the largest home average league attendance in Great Britain - 59.113 - and recent games have More than a decade ago, been broadcast live to Scandiboth clubs enjoyed a four-year relationship with C. R. Smith. a double-glazing firm whose The Old Firm are dissatisname was on both sets of shirts. That venture ended in

fied with their present income from television and keen to 1988, when Rangers signed explore the pay-per-view possiwith Scottish Brewers, albilities offered by the new digithough Celtic remained with tal era. An association with a media company, such as-C.R. Smith for NTL, could facilitate that more years. But the rewards from that

Stephen Morrow, of Heriot Watt University's school of management, an expert on football's finances, said: "The amounts (for sponsorship) are growing all the time. There are very big clubs, which have a global reach, such as Celtic. Rangers or Manchester Unit-ed. The sponsors realise this extends beyond the domestic markets and the figures will

reflect that." So, while British public opinion may be split about European financial union. Glasgow's divided football community looks set to embrace it.



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